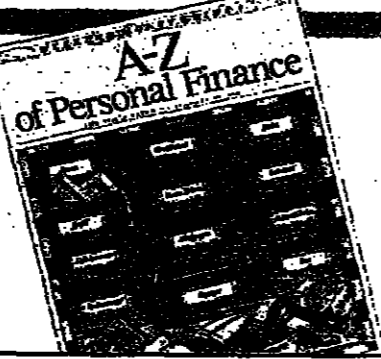


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Jonathan Meades
our award-winning restaurant critic in the **MAGAZINE**

Passport to Europe
Bargain breaks from £29
Details and token **PAGE 16**



Low-cost classic cars
CAR 96, PAGE 3

The millennium and the Prince
Simon Jenkins **PAGE 20**



New case denounced as vendetta

Defiant Kevin Maxwell faces second trial

By Jon Ashworth and Frances Gibb

KEVIN MAXWELL faced the prospect of another long trial yesterday when the Serious Fraud Office announced that it was pressing ahead with further charges against him.

The decision came seven days after his acquittal on charges of conspiracy to defraud pensioners of shares worth £12 million, and he immediately denounced it as "political". Mr Maxwell's barrister described it as an outrage, and said he would seek to have the case thrown out.

No further action will be taken against Mr Maxwell's elder brother, Ian, but Larry Trachtenberg, who was acquitted with the brothers last week after an eight-month hearing, will be put on trial again. Mr Maxwell and Mr Trachtenberg will be joined in the dock by Albert Fuller, former head of the Maxwell treasury department, and Michael Stoney, a former Maxwell company director.

The SFO's decision to proceed was announced in the Old Bailey courtroom used for the previous hearing and afterwards, Kevin Maxwell said: "I believe I am the victim of a political decision taken by politicians in the run-up to a general election. I do not think the interests of justice will be served by a second trial."

He was supported by his wife Pandora, who accused the SFO of running a vendetta against him. She branded the decision "the last lash of the dragon's tail", and called for a public protest. "I am hoping the public will object to the spending of another £10 million when they could be putting the Newbury bypass underground for that much."

The Attorney General denied the claims of political

motivation, however, saying the decision was taken by the director of the Serious Fraud Office in consultation with counsel and the Government's law officers. And Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, Conservative chairman of the Commons home affairs select committee, described the suggestion as "absolutely nonsensical". He said the Attorney General would have approved the prosecution, but the decision would have been taken purely on legal grounds.

The decision to continue with the case was made just before yesterday morning's court hearing. Richard Lisack, for the prosecution, said it had been taken at the last minute after "painstaking" reflection, but there were ill-tempered exchanges in court as defence counsel complained that they had been left no time to consider their response.

Alun Jones, QC, for Kevin Maxwell, described the continued prosecution as oppressive and "nothing less than an outrage". He argued that the complexity of the case meant that a second trial might not start until next January and could last nine months, plac-

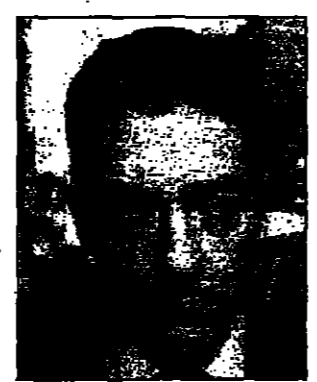
ing Kevin under further sustained stress.

Defence lawyers will now have to wait until the new proceedings are underway and a decision made on whether Lord Justice Phillips or another judge will hear the charges before they can apply to have the prosecutions struck out. They are likely to claim an "abuse of process" grounds, arguing that the prosecution is oppressive, not in the public interest and being brought for other (possibly political) reasons, and to save the reputation of the SFO. They will also argue that Kevin Maxwell will have been facing criminal proceedings for more than five years by the time the new trial is over.

The SFO has twice before launched a second prosecution against an acquitted defendant, failing in one case and securing a conviction in the other. But in legal circles yesterday, reaction to the decision to proceed in the Maxwell case was one of disbelief. There was a feeling that the SFO was not so much acting in the public interest as seeking to salvage its reputation at huge cost to the public purse.

One QC said the SFO had put its own future on the line. "The SFO has raised the stakes hugely. If it now fails to win convictions, the criticism that will descend on it will be savage."

The investigation into the collapse of the late Robert Maxwell's empire cost some £11 million and the final bill of the first trial has been estimated at up to £30 million. But only two of ten original counts were considered at that trial in



Maxwell: "I am victim of political decision"

Melvin Marcus, page 26



The new Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, in the London Cope, which was made for Bishop Gerald Ellison and depicts several London churches, during his enthronement at St Paul's Cathedral yesterday. Page 10

Hillary Clinton faces press cameras — and a grand jury

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON held her head high yesterday as she arrived at a federal courthouse for the worst ordeal of her life.

The first President's wife to be subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury was whisked the 13 blocks from the White House in a long grey limousine with police outriders and emerged to face a huge throng of journalists, cameramen and demonstrators.

Wearing a long, black braided coat and surrounded by secret service agents, she stopped at a bank of microphones to say she was "happy to answer the grand jury's questions" and would "tell them everything I know in the hope it will help them in their investigation". In the background protestors chanted: "Tell the Truth."

Mrs Clinton, concealing her nervousness with a smile, entered the courthouse and took the lift to the third floor where she left her entourage to enter a drab, featureless room alone to face Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, and 23 randomly selected Washington citizens.

Mr Starr had summoned Mrs Clinton to explain the movements of records of her legal work for Madison Guaranty, the corrupt Arkansas bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair.

When Mr Starr subpoenaed the records two years ago the White House said they were lost, but this month it announced they had been inexplicably discovered on a table in the Clintons' private quarters.

The records cast doubt on Mrs Clinton's sworn claim to have done only "minimal" work for Madison and Mr Starr, sensing an obstruction of justice, swiftly subpoenaed not only the First Lady but her

lawyers, her make-up assistant and the chief White House usher.

Media from around the world had begun arriving before dawn to bag pole positions outside the courthouse. By mid-morning the mêlée thoroughly eclipsed the long queues formed outside the nearby National Gallery to see Washington's other great spectacle — the Vermeer exhibition.

Great banks of cameras and arc lights faced the courthouse entrance, television vans lined Pennsylvania and Constitution avenues, and a circus atmosphere prevailed.

A few Clinton supporters were heavily outnumbered by right-wingers flaunting signs reading "Liar Liar" and "It's Ethics, Stupid!"

The White House, conceding this was the day's only story, minutely choreographed Mrs Clinton's arrival in an attempt to mitigate a public relations nightmare. It resisted the temptation to have her sneak in like a criminal through the court's secure underground car park, and aides positioned microphones so she did not speak with the courthouse as a backdrop.

Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said President Clinton had spent time with his wife earlier in the day. He "reassured her, told her he loves her and that she would do a good job."

The previous day, Mrs Clinton made a morale-boosting, image-enhancing trip to New Hampshire and spoke to an adoring crowd of carefully selected Democrats and a group of girl scouts. Camera-men were allowed free access — but not reporters with their embarrassing questions.

Leading article, page 21

Britain freezes in Arctic winds

By Stephen Farrell

SUB-ZERO temperatures and Arctic winds caused hundreds of accidents and closed roads across the country yesterday, and are set to disrupt the weekend's sporting fixtures.

Weather centres reported

temperatures of -6C (21.2F) and 45mph winds, causing a wind chill factor of -17C (1.4F). The worst-affected areas were south Wales and northern England, where thousands of homes were hit by power cuts, and hundreds of accidents occurred where snow had settled on patches of black ice.

In the Rhymney Valley, emergency soup kitchens were set up and helicopters flew mobile generators into parts of Mid-Glamorgan and Gwent. Welsh Water was forced to deliver bottled supplies to villages near Merthyr Tydfil

after reservoir pumps failed. "These have been freak conditions," a spokesman said.

In Sussex, a 26-year-old woman died when the car she was travelling in skidded on ice at Pycomb, near Haywards Heath, and crashed into a garage forecourt, destroying several petrol pumps.

The London Weather Centre said worse weather is on the way. "We are expecting the same situation we had on New Year's Eve, when rain froze as it hit the ground."

Forecast, page 24

Buying The Times overseas

Austria	Sch 40	Belgium	Fr 80
Canada	US \$25	Denmark	DKr 11,000
Cyprus	US \$12.50	France	Fr 110,000
Finland	Fr 17,000	Germany	DM 4.50
Gibraltar	90c	Greece	Dr 500
Guatemala	Q12	Holland	Fl 4.50
India	Rs 100	Italy	L 4,500
Japan	Y 600	Malaysia	RM 3.50
Kenya	Sh 100	Norway	Nkr 200
Spain	US \$1.50	Sweden	Swk 120
Switzerland	Sfr 4.50	Taiwan	NT 2,200
USA	US \$5.50		



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COURT & SOCIAL	22	SIMON JENKINS	20	SPORT	42-48	TRAVEL: WEEKEND	16-24

Forté facing Footsie axe

Forté, the food and hotels group taken over by Granada, faces the ignominy of being replaced in the FT-SE index of the leading 100 companies next week by Mercury Asset Management.

The fund management company helped to seal Forté's fate by publicly accepting the £3.8 billion Granada bid. Page 25

Inmates' payout

Seven prisoners who claimed they were left mentally traumatised by the Strangeways jail riots six years ago have reached out-of-court cash settlements of almost £5,000 each from the Home Office. Page 3

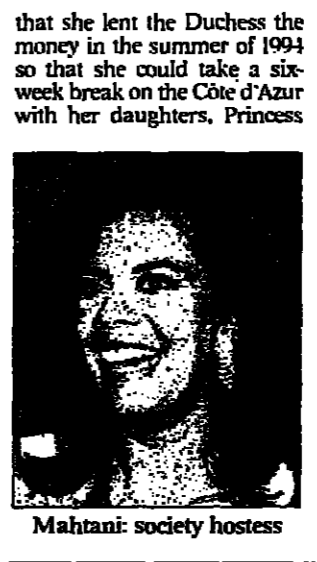
Duchess sued over £100,000 loan

By Bill Frost

THE Duchess of York faced fresh embarrassment over her finances yesterday as a former friend issued a High Court writ demanding that she repay a £100,000 loan.

Lily Rathan Mahtani, an Indian-born society hostess, is said to have lent the Duchess the money for a holiday in France two years ago. She wants the money returned with interest. It is thought to be the first time a member of the Royal Family has been faced with a High Court hearing over an alleged debt. The writ was filed on Thursday while the Duchess, who is thought to be up to £3 million in debt, was lunching at a London restaurant.

Mrs Mahtani, 38, claimed



Mahtani: society hostess

that she lent the Duchess the money in the summer of 1994 so that she could take a six-week break on the Côte d'Azur with her daughters, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, some of her staff and a sherpa mountain guide she met in the Himalayas. The Duchess is said to have repaid only about £5,000.

Last week, when news of the Duchess's debts was made public, Buckingham Palace made plain that the Queen would no longer pay her daughter-in-law's creditors. However, the Duchess apparently has clinched a lucrative deal with Ray Chambers, an American businessman, on marketing Budgie the Helicopter, the cartoon character she created.

In addition, she has received a £60,000 offer from the CBS TV network in the United States to host a chat show. A

source close to the Duchess indicated last night, however, that she was "highly unlikely to relaunch herself as a television performer now or at any time".

The writ, issued at 3.16pm on Thursday against the Duchess, of Kingsbourne House, Wenworth, Surrey, claims that Mrs Mahtani lent the Duchess £100,000 in or about August 1994, on terms that the loan would be repaid on demand or within a reasonable period. It claims that repayment was demanded in late February last year.

The writ says that, in part payment, the Duchess gave a cheque, dated March 2 last year, for £5,000 and the balance.

Continued on page 2, col 3

IAN CHOSE THE LIGHTS OUT OPTION ON VIRGIN UPPER CLASS BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, HAD DRUNK TOO MANY COFFEES.

Upper Class We offer a sleep-suit, duvet, pillow, lights out in the cabin, and decaffeinated coffee. Call 01293 747 500 or see your travel agent. virgin atlantic

CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? The Times critics select the best entertainment

Benedict Nightingale

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Read Wilde's play, and you might conclude it is a melodrama with epigrams artificially inserted in the creaker gaps. But Peter Hall's production is a major piece of dramatic reclamation...

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Why has a revival of a neatly carpentered thriller written 50 years ago and earnestly preaching socialism won almost every award in London...

Clive Davis

JACKY TERRASSON His epomymous Blue Note debut found a place in many of the shortlists as the critics looked back on the outstanding records of 1995...

BARBARA COOK/STEVE ROSS Barbara Cook's waltz through Broadway and Tin Pan Alley history is currently one of London's best kept secrets...

THE MAGIC FLUTE There are few more uplifting experiences than a really good performance of Mozart's fairy-tale morality...

David Sinclair

FRANK BLACK Joining up the musical dots from Nirvana to Green Day, yet still wildly different to both, Frank Black is here to promote The Cult of Ray...

Rodney Milnes

SAMSON ET DALILA There is a slightly improvised feel to the Royal Opera's new year production, with the management bobbing and weaving through cancelled productions and changes



Humanity and humour Penny Downie, Dulcie Gray and Anna Carteret star in Peter Hall's timely production of Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband

of cast, but the unplanned revival of Saint-Saëns's grand biblical opera is all gain: Sidney Nolan's sumptuously colourful decor, Elijah Moshinsky's grown-up production and David Bintley's rather softly awakes my heart...

Z: Garage, Glasgow (0141-332 1120), Jan 29; Riverside, Newcastle (0191-261 4396), Jan 30; Manchester University (0161-275 2930), Jan 31; Metropolitan University, Leeds (0113-244 2999), Feb 1; Leadmill, Sheffield (0114-275 4500), Feb 3; Junction, Cambridge (01223 412600), Feb 4; Wolftrun Hall, Wolverhampton (01902 312030), Feb 5; Bristol University (0117-928 9000), Feb 7; Pyramids Centre, Portsmouth (01705 358608), Feb 8; Astoria, London WC2 (0171-434 0403), Feb 9.

Joan Osborne, who has been nominated for five awards at the forthcoming Grammys, Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Jan 30.

John Percival

SPRING COLLECTION A chance to catch up with what is happening in British contemporary dance: the Place Theatre and the South Bank Centre combine to offer no fewer than 25 choreographers across three intensive days...



A chorus of approval: grandstander Melissa Etheridge

MELISSA ETHERIDGE/JOAN OSBORNE In her element singing old Janis Joplin songs at the Woodstock Festival of 1994, Melissa Etheridge has revived the grandstanding style of the traditional female rock 'n' roll star...

SWAN DANCE 96 A two-month season of seven dance companies opens in High Wycombe with the premiere of Crime Fiction by Arc Dance Company (Fri 2 and Sat 3). Coming in February are Adzido (Wed 7), Aletta Collins (Wed 14), and the black company RJC in Captured (Fri 23) and The Hot Shoe Shuffle (Mon 26 to March 2). Then in March the Royal Ballet Dance Bites tour brings four more premieres (March 18 and 19) and the series climaxes with Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake (March 26-30). Current album, High Wycombe (01494 512000), Spinn, matinee: Feb 28, March 2 and 30, 2.30pm, March 19 and 27, 2pm.

Richard Morrison

PARIS DOUBLE The Orchestre de Paris comes to the Barbican in the "Great Orchestras of the World" series, which perhaps flatters its status: over the years it has shown us its good points but also its sloppy side...



Maxim Vengerov, violin, plays Mendelssohn at the Barbican

Resurrection Symphony (Thursday), a programme of Gilbert Amy (a British premiere), Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with Maxim Vengerov as soloist, and The Rite of Spring (Friday). Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Thur Feb 1, Fri 2, 7.30pm.

NYMAN'S BACK Half the musical world denests Michael Nyman's pieces: the other half loves them. They are loud, repetitive, mostly derivative and unsuitable - but they create a sound world that is

unmistakably Nyman's own. It usually helps if you have seen whichever of Peter Greenaway's films they originally accompanied. That will probably be the case here: the first British performance of Nyman's Noises Sounds & Sweet Airs. It is an opera based on music for Prospero's Books, Greenaway's free fantasy on Shakespeare's The Tempest. Singers Catherine Bott, Hilary Summers and Christopher Gillet join the concrete-blasting Michael Nyman Band. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Tues, 8pm.

Geoff Brown

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15) Has Pedro Almodóvar finally grown up? It seems so: Spain's most exportable director has made a film of muted design and sober feelings, with kinks just around the edges. Heroine Marisa Paredes is enduring a mid-life crisis over her work (she writes romantic trash) and her marriage to a Nato peacekeeper. This could be a recipe for caricature and farce, but Almodóvar treats the heroine's pain with touching seriousness. Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1700); Gate (0171-727 4043); Revoir (0171-637 8402); Ritzy (0171-737 2121); Screen on the Hill (0171-435 3366).

HEAT (15) "They're good." Al Pacino's workaholic detective muses, observing the work of Robert De Niro's criminals, who are robbing their way round Los Angeles. And so is the film, nearly three hours long but with few wasted minutes. The stars alone command attention: Pacino like a tightly-coiled spring, De Niro rigorously controlled as the dedicated criminal. Michael Mann builds

tension, cutting between car and mouse. Mobile camerawork and lightning create a Los Angeles of lonely souls, and several action set-pieces set new standards. Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); MGMS Fulham Road (0171-370 2636); Trocadero (0171-434 0031); Ritzy (0171-737 2121); Screen on the Hill (0171-226 3520); UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332); Warner (0171-437 4343).

Richard Cork

SUSAN HILLER In a retrospective at the Tate Gallery Liverpool, Hiller reveals the continuity of her interests over the past 20 years. But she means she adopts never ceases to change. In a work called Monument, she brings together the plaques memorialising people who died trying to save relatives or strangers. But the most arresting exhibits employ video with beguiling immediacy. While flames flicker on the wall, a child describes Rembrandt's painting of Deshaezar's Feast. Then attention turns to claims, by television viewers, that apparitions appear on their screens. The flames grow larger, inviting us to discover hallucinations in their writhing forms. Tate Galleries, Albert Dock, Liverpool (0151-709 3223), until March 17.

JANA STERBAK Last year, the Canadian-based Czech artist stirred controversy by exhibiting a dress made of fast-withering slices of flank steak. In a larger show at the Serpentine Gallery, only one exhibit seeks to shock. Called Seduction Couch, it is made of perforated steel and gives anyone rash enough to touch it an electrostatic sting. In a grueling video work called Condition, Sterbak films a man burdened by a wire-mesh object on wheels. He drags the appendage round a deserted airport, and only casts it aside at the end. Maybe we can draw some comfort from this small victory. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London SW7 (0171-723 9072), Feb 25.

John Russell Taylor

PAUL SMITH TRUE BRIT Paul Smith is one of the most successful British designers of menswear, and has been chosen as the subject of the Design Museum's first major exhibition devoted to a single fashion designer. For him true Britishness has more to do with the traditional eccentricity of the British than with sportiness and understated casual elegance. The show includes a collection of videos of Smith's principal fashion shows. Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (0171-403 6933), Mon-Fri, 11.30am-6pm; Sat-Sun, noon-6pm, until April 10.

JOHN DOWNTON Was the Modern British painter John Downton (1906-1991), this touring exhibition could be challenging, an "archaic misfit" or "enigmatic genius"? There is, presumably, no reason why he should not have been both. He believed passionately that art had been on the wrong road ever since the early Renaissance, and set about putting it back on track by writing texts, such as The Death of Art, and by painting modern portraits in his own meticulously finished manner. Occasionally, in his taste for plump young women, he suggests Botero, but in the main he resembles no one, his cool, almost frigid surface containing, if only just, a volcanic force of emotion. Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield (0114-273 4783), Mon-Sat, 10am-9pm; Sun, 2.5pm, until Feb 24.

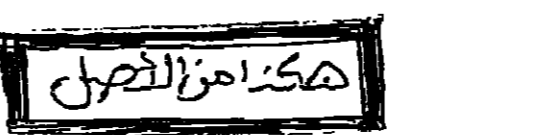
COMIC CUTS: Backstage at the Leeds Empire in 1981. Times as changing as old-style variety is marketed by new, young pop singers. Jack Shepherd's play catches the moment of change. Lyric Studio, King Street, Harrogate, W6 (01181 741 2311) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm.
COMPANY: Adrian Lester, Sheila Goh, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Southem's bitter-sweet musical on marriage, pro and contra. Deodar Warehouse, Lifford Street, WC2 (0171-369 1725), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed and Sat, 3pm.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE
Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
Houses full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.
The very theatre Paul Meehan directed. Shepherds Bush Green, WC2 (0181-743 3388), Mon-Sat, 8pm.
THE GLASS MENAGERIE: Sam Mendes's radiant production. Zoo Warriner and Glenn Sinner play mother and daughter; Ben Wilson as Tom Conroy. Park Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Sat, 3pm.

NEW RELEASES
THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15): See Critic's Choice, above.
HEAT (15): See Critic's Choice, above.
THE INNOCENT SLEEP (15): Shouldn't a young woman thriller, with Michael Gambon, Director, Scott Mitchell.
THE MOST DESIRED MAN (16): Broad, mostly pleasant German comedy about sexual identity. Director, Sönke Wortmann.

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol *) on release across the country
Empire (0171-437 1234) MGMS: Fullman Road (0171-370 2536)
THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD (PG): A boy Indian figure comes alive.
THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15): Love and heroism amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence. Pasty

Marisa Paredes stars in The Flower of My Secret
pictures, but little depth. Jean-Paul Rappoport directs Olivier Martinez and Juliette Binoche.
LEAVING LAS VEGAS (16): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis.
THE UNDERWEATH (16): The classic 1940s thriller. Cries Cross remade as a splashy puzzle by director Steven Soderbergh. With Peter Gallagher. Plaza (0171-437 1234)



Strangeways seven are 'paid off'

Prisoners stressed by jail riot receive £5,000 settlements

By KATE ALDERSON

SEVEN prisoners claiming to have been mentally traumatised by the Strangeways jail riots six years ago have reached out-of-court settlements with the Home Office of almost £5,000 each.

In what are believed to be the first cases of their kind, the seven former inmates launched claims for damages alleging they suffered post-traumatic stress disorder. A Prison Service spokesman confirmed yesterday that all seven claims had been settled.

However, the Home Office has not accepted liability and the awards have been made because of the huge cost to the taxpayer of taking the cases to court. A spokesman said: "After counsel's advice and careful consideration it was decided to settle the cases on the grounds of costs. The stress has not been proved."

The Prison Service spokesman said that an ex-gratia payment had also been made to a prison officer, but he could not reveal details.

The riot at the Manchester jail, which began in April 1990, lasted for 25 days and resulted in the death of one prison officer. Another prison officer received injuries that may have contributed to his

death. Six prisoners were charged with murder and ten with rioting.

Politicians yesterday condemned the Home Office decision to settle. Prison officers said it was an insult to those who worked in Strangeways during the riot who have received no compensation.

Bob Litherland, the Labour MP whose Manchester Central constituency includes Strangeways, said: "My heart goes out to all of them. The Home Office has not even rewarded them with a paltry medal, let alone thousands in compensation."

An official of the Prison Officer's Association (POA) said the Home Office payments could prompt other prisoners to "jump on the bandwagon" and for prisons' staff to reconsider launching actions. However, the Home Office said claims for damages had to be lodged within three years of any incident.

Terence Jeggo, 27, from Manchester, is a former inmate who has received £4,500 over his claim that he suffered a personality change during the riots. He alleged the Prison Service breached its duty of care to him as a prisoner and that the prison authorities

should have known that a riot was imminent and taken steps to prevent it.

Jeggo, in Strangeways for stabbing a man, was involved in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue two prisoners from a burning cell at the height of the riot. He claimed he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder as a result. His case was due to go before a 12-week hearing at Manchester High Court.

Trevor Ward, a solicitor acting for Jeggo, said: "He suffered anxiety and depression which led to the breakdown of a long-term relationship with the mother of his children." Mr Ward described the payment as reasonable, adding there was evidence that Jeggo suffered psychological trauma.

Sir Ivan Lawrence, chairman of the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, said damages claims were getting out of hand. "As with claims by IRA terrorists, wives of appalling criminals and other absurd cases that have recently been emerging, most people will be extremely irritated by this."

Dawn Bromiley, of Justice For Victims, described the payments as a joke. "They say they are suffering stress caused by the riot, but what about the stress and pain caused to the victims and families of victims by their actions?"

John Sutcliffe, assistant secretary of the POA, said his members had made claims to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board after riots at eight prisons, including Strangeways, in 1990. Sixty-five claims were made to the board. Forty related to physical injuries, all of which had been settled, and 25 involved compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder, three of which were outstanding. Payments to officers for stress range from £2,500 to £7,500.



Rioting prisoners took to the roof during the disturbance at Strangeways in the spring of 1990

Rock 'n' roll legend to sue theatre over his life story

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE world premiere of a play about Jerry Lee Lewis at a provincial theatre is at the centre of a legal dispute with the flamboyant musician's family.

Whole Lotta Shakin', is due to open at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, on Tuesday. But Lewis, the six-times married pioneer of rock-and-roll, has objected to the theatre's claims that the play had received his family's blessing.

The "warts and all" story was written by Todd Ristau, who spent several months in Memphis, where the singer lives, talking to relatives and friends. It has been tipped for a West End run.

Lewis, 59, whose hits included *Great Balls of Fire*, has spent most of his career in controversy. His 1958 tour of Britain was disrupted by protests against his marriage to his 13-year-old cousin. He was a drug addict for more than 20 years, and was arrested for trying to drive through Elvis Presley's locked gates with a loaded gun. He has also been pursued for millions of dollars in unpaid tax.

The unauthorised musical,

which takes its name from one of the singer's biggest hits, is due to run for a month. It tells the story of his rise to fame at the age of 21 and charts how he fell from glory because of the outrage over his 13-year-old bride. At least four of his six wives will feature in the show.

David Monypeny, Lewis's lawyer, said last night: "This play is being produced without the authority of Jerry Lee Lewis. We are adamantly opposed to it and will take all steps necessary to prevent this



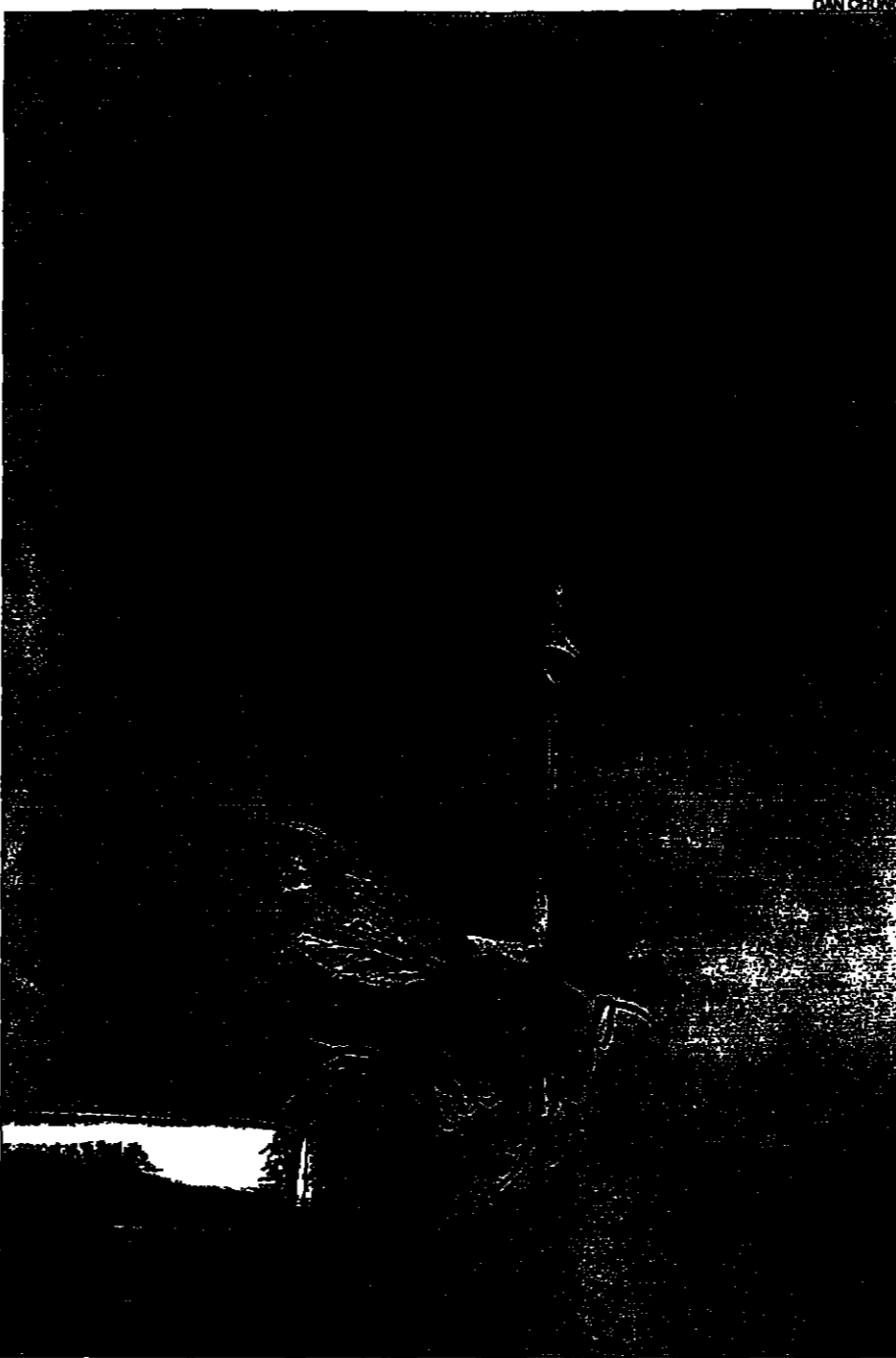
Jerry Lee Lewis: said to be upset by the show

production opening." Charles White, official biographer of Lewis, said: "I spoke to one of Jerry's sisters last night. She is terribly upset, as is Jerry. I have a copy of the script which is going to lawyers." In a press release the theatre said: "The production has been developed with full co-operation of the Lewis family."

The theatre is delighted by the controversy. "We have had calls from all over the country," Fiona Williams, public relations manager, said. "We have never even hinted that Jerry Lee Lewis is involved. Our lawyers have checked the script. We have not libelled anyone or plagiarised anyone. So far we have not received any injunctions. It is true that we have not had authority from Jerry Lee Lewis. We don't need it. The show is definitely going on."

Ms Williams added: "We rather hope Jerry Lee Lewis may fly over as well as our guest-of-honour."

Not all the family objects. Frankie Jean, one of the musician's sisters, is expected at the opening night. The show stars Billy Geraghty, who played Buddy Holly in the West End.



Dr Joe Riley observes a bee with the 16mm radar antenna glued to its back

Scientists create tiny antenna to keep eye on bees

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH scientists have invented the world's smallest radar antenna to track bees and other low-flying insects.

The device could improve the efficiency of bee-keeping and help to combat the tsetse fly, carrier of sleeping sickness in central and southern Africa.

The antenna, which weighs three milligrams and is 16 millimetres high, is glued to the back of the bees. Field trials show the creatures can fly normally with the extra load but have some difficulty entering their hives.

Radar has already been used to monitor high-flying insects, but their ground-hugging counterparts could not be tracked because of the signals returned from plants and other objects.

With the aid of a £65,000 grant from the Overseas Development Administration, Joe Riley and his colleagues at the Natural Resources Institute at Malmesbury, Hereford and Worcester, devised the antenna, technically known as a harmonic generating tag, to get round this problem.

"The tag reflects a harmonic of the radar signals which can be detected even against strong competing echoes from the ground," he said. "The insects are then tracked by a radar scanner with two dishes, one to send the signal out and one to receive it."

The key to the device's tiny

size is its ability to pick up the operating power it needs from the incoming signals, so no on-board battery is required.

The next step is to develop an antenna weighing no more than one milligram capable of being attached to tsetse flies, which themselves weigh only between five and 10 milligrams. Such a device could be ready for field trials next year.

Dr Riley and his team are working at the request of scientists in Zimbabwe who think the radar tag will enable them to control tsetse flies more effectively and without the environmental damage caused by insecticides.

"The Zimbabweans are already using decoys to trap the bloodsucking flies," Dr Riley said. "Rods are placed in fields and covered with black cloth impregnated with the odour of an ox and also the insecticide. But it is a bit hit-and-miss. The aim is to use the radar tags to find out the insects' precise flight patterns, making it possible to site the decoy rods in places where they will catch most flies."

Bees were originally chosen simply because they provided a good model on which to test the antenna. Entomologists now think the tags could also be used to improve knowledge of the foraging and pollinating habits of bees, enabling hives to be sited more effectively and perhaps throwing light on the decline of the wild bumble bee.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Scarborough fields mayor in bid for Bulgarian glory

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO rival soccer towns are locked in an off-the-field battle over who is to look after the Bulgarian football team when it plays in the European Championship this summer.

Apart from the civic and sporting prestige of hosting the entourage, there is also the matter of the £5 million which 5,000 Bulgarian fans are expected to spend next June when they watch Bulgaria's opening matches in Newcastle and Leeds.

On one side is Darlington, Co Durham, currently sixth in Division 3. Once the grimy birthplace of the railway industry, it now claims to be a centre for tourism. It is pitted against Scarborough, the Victorian spa town, which at present is the penultimate

side in the Football League. Until the start of this month Darlington believed it had the match in the bag. A team agent had booked rooms at a country house hotel and the rugby club had offered its ground for training.

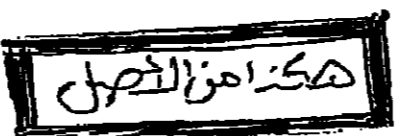
But then Don Robinson, a Scarborough businessman who was chairman of the town's soccer club and has hotel interests in Bulgaria, stepped in with a late equaliser. Through his contacts, officials of the Bulgarian Football Union were offered an alternative venue.

John Williams, leader of Darlington council, tackled the move by offering a tour of his area next month to Bulgarian officials. Scarborough believes, however, that it scored a last-minute winner when last weekend it

organised its own VIP visit, including lunch with the mayor. Afterwards officials said the Bulgarians were "95 per cent likely" to be bound for Scarborough. A final decision is awaited from Sofia.

Mr Williams said "I have no axe to grind with Scarborough but it would be crazy for them to stay there, especially at the height of the summer, because they would be subjecting themselves to long and arduous journeys on congested moorland roads."

David James, Scarborough's director of tourism, said: "Distance is not a problem in the last World Cup they travelled for three hours to matches. I am sure Darlington is very nice, but I am convinced the facilities we can offer, both on and off the field, are far superior."



Voice denies irresponsible reporting ahead of Brixton police station protest

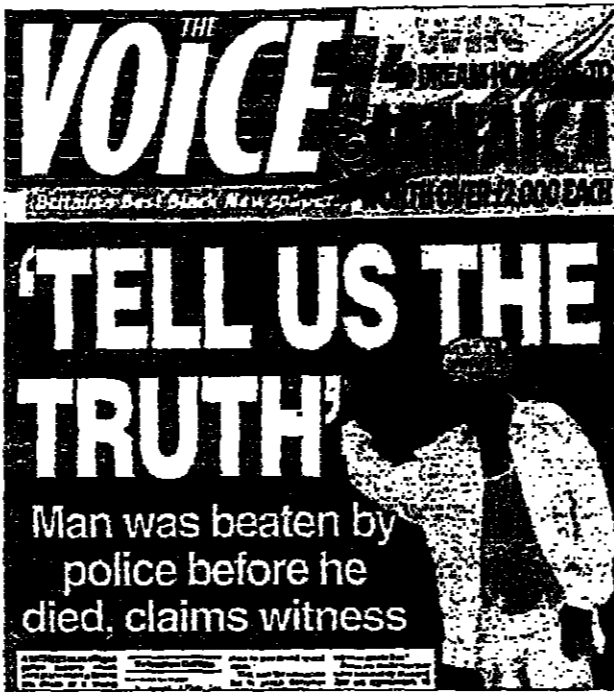
Condon accuses black newspaper of fuelling riots

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Metropolitan Police Commissioner has accused Britain's leading black newspaper of helping to incite the riots in Brixton, south London, last month.

Sir Paul Condon said yesterday that The Voice had been "dangerously irresponsible" in its coverage of the case of Wayne Douglas, the 20-year-old black burglar whose death after an arrest was a major factor in the riots.

Community and our rights. We have a sworn affidavit from a witness to the events which took place surrounding the death of Wayne Douglas. Our witness is prepared to appear in court.



Coverage of the death of Wayne Douglas by The Voice was condemned by Sir Paul Condon, right, as irresponsible. He said it helped to incite last month's riots in Brixton that resulted in ransacked shops and burnt-out cars



Part-time fireman made hoax 999 calls

A part-time fireman made a series of hoax emergency calls so that he could improve his response rate and avoid losing his job.

Philip James, a 37-year-old sales representative, had been struggling to reach Swindon central fire station within four minutes. He admitted raising false alarms and resigned after colleagues recognised his voice on recordings of the calls.

Climber's tribute

Alison Hargreaves, the mountaineer who died on the face of K2 in the Himalayas in August, aged 33, was honoured with a posthumous doctorate by her home-town University of Derby.

Killed by fumes

A verdict of accidental death was recorded yesterday on Alan Pask, the former British Lions and Wales rugby player, who was overcome by fumes as he tried to save his spaniel from a fire at his home in Blackwood, Gwent.

Marquess ban

The Marquess of Blandford was given an interim driving ban by magistrates in Witney, Oxfordshire, for failing to provide a blood specimen and not having insurance.

Brady case fails

Ian Brady, the moors murderer, has been refused leave by the High Court to contest a ruling by the Press Complaints Commission that a photograph of him, taken with a long lens and published in The Sun in July, was not an invasion of privacy.

Happy eventer

The world champion showjumper Mary Thomson gave birth to a daughter yesterday at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital but said that she still hoped to take a place in Britain's three-day eventing team in Atlanta, Georgia, later this year.

MPs rush through Bill to punish cruelty to wild animals

By ALICE THOMSON

ACTS of cruelty to hedgehogs, badgers and frogs will soon be a criminal offence punishable by jail, after a backbench Bill was rushed through the Commons yesterday.

Violence such as stabbing, burning, kicking, stomping, crushing, drowning and mutilation. Pets such as hamsters, rats and rabbits are already protected from "barbarous treatment" under 1911 legislation.

Animal kingdom that I proceeded. Last year a contentious backbench Bill put forward by John McFall, Labour MP for Dumbarrow, to outlaw some field sports was quietly stifled by the Government by being given no time to proceed.

Mr Meale cited recent cases where the Bill would have helped to prosecute hooligans who had burnt alive a fox, nailed a vixen to a tree, dragged a fox behind a motor-cycle, kicked a hedgehog against a wall, impaled a hare with a three-foot metal spike and crushed another hedgehog by taking turns to jump onto a concrete slab placed on top of the animal.



Meale: regretted the exclusion of fox-hunting

Home Office minister, said: "It is a sad reflection on our society that such a Bill should be necessary, that there is a despicable minority of people who are prepared to commit such acts."

Mr Meale cited recent cases where the Bill would have helped to prosecute hooligans who had burnt alive a fox, nailed a vixen to a tree, dragged a fox behind a motor-cycle, kicked a hedgehog against a wall, impaled a hare with a three-foot metal spike and crushed another hedgehog by taking turns to jump onto a concrete slab placed on top of the animal.

Hot! £30, Hot! £40, Hot! £50. Country Club Hotel Group advertisement listing various hotels and resorts with prices and contact information.

Home Office minister, said: "It is a sad reflection on our society that such a Bill should be necessary, that there is a despicable minority of people who are prepared to commit such acts."

2 for 1 flights. Virgin Atlantic advertisement offering a 2 for 1 flight deal with terms and conditions.

The Open University. M.Sc. in Computing through open learning. Advertisement for a postgraduate course.

Highlands Scala plays host to the stars. Advertisement for a performance at the Highlands Scala.

مركزنا للأعمال



The *Lock Ness* premiere won't be a monster affair

Highlands Scala plays host to the stars

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

A LOCAL picture palace in Inverness will be the unlikely setting for the world premiere of a Hollywood movie next week. A host of stars have been invited to the launch of *Lock Ness* at La Scala, "the sort of cinema where your feet stick to the carpet", as one of the organisers put it.

Among the celebrities flying in to the capital of the Highlands for Saturday's celebrations are the film's stars, Ted Danson and Joely Richardson. Others the organisers are hoping will attend include Sting, Bob Geldof, Charlton Heston, Emily Lloyd, Koo Stark, Jodie Kidd and Oasis.

Lock Ness, a romantic comedy set around the monster myth, is the third Hollywood film to have its premiere in Scotland in the past nine months and the Scottish Tourist Board is hoping it will give a further boost to the region. It follows on the heels of *Rob Roy* and *Braveheart*, noted for their breathtaking settings and opulent launch parties. *Lock Ness* will be altogether more modest.

The budget for the premiere is £65,000, including air fares and accommodation. By contrast, United Artists spent £1 million on the launch of *Rob Roy*.

La Scala is a twin-screen traditional picture house — with one shop, one bar — that once doubled as a church.

Brian Beattie, a Highlands councillor, said: "You could be snobbish about the venue, but I can assure Ted, Joely and all the other bigwigs that the wee stall at the front door of La Scala sells excellent popcorn and hotdogs."

Crumbling cliff face reveals first set of dinosaur footprints in Scotland

Dinosaur hunter stumbles on Skye's Jurassic past

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE first set of dinosaur footprints discovered in Scotland have been found at a remote beach on Skye. The fossilised tracks of the 6ft-tall carnivore were uncovered by Neil Clark, a palaeontologist and curator of the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, where they will be displayed later this year.

The tracks will have important implications for the understanding of dinosaurs in Britain. They will help scientists to assess how fast the dinosaurs moved, how big they were and how heavy.

Mr Clark, who is recovering from a broken leg, suffered last week when he was trying to remove the fossils, came across the footprints at the beginning of this month. He had taken a palaeontologist from Yale to a beach at Staffin and was showing her some pseudo-tracks, marks in the rock not made by dinosaurs, when he spotted the real thing. There

are about ten footprints made by two three-toed dinosaurs, one slightly bigger than the other. The prints measure 20cm to 30cm across and Mr Clark describes them as like "giant bird footprints".

He believes the tracks may be from a dinosaur called *coelophysis*, best known from remains found in Mexico. Mr Clark found a tail bone of a much smaller *coelophysis* in the same area of Skye. The tracks date to between 220 million and 170 million years ago, the Jurassic period.

Fossilised footprints have been found at several sites in England but Skye is the only place where they have been found in Scotland. A single print was discovered on the island in 1984. Mr Clark said: "I think this is mainly because the rocks are of the right age in Skye. I found the tracks in slabs of rock which had recently broken away from the cliff face and split in two. Scotland was separated

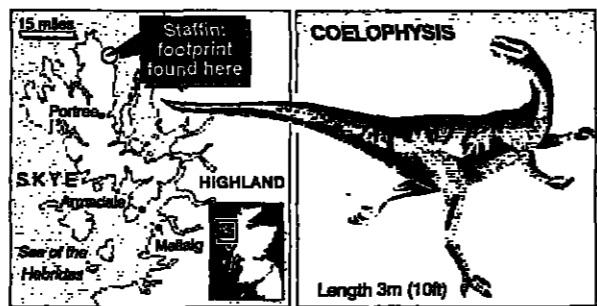
from England at the time the tracks were made and was much closer to Greenland and North America. Mr Clark thinks the dinosaurs that made the tracks may have migrated from America.

"Every little piece of the jigsaw is important," he said. "It was a very exciting discovery. We were happy enough to go back to celebrate by having a wee dram or two."

The slabs containing the footprints, weighing almost a tonne, have been removed from the site with permission from the Scottish Office, which owns the mineral rights in the area.

It was while supervising the removal that Mr Clark fell and broke his leg. He had to be flown by helicopter to hospital in Stornoway. He will be in plaster for four months, unable to walk for eight weeks, and the injury may delay the display of the footprints in the museum. Mr Clark had hoped to have them on display by March.

The accident illustrated the problems of a planned excavation of the site. "I'd like there to be a proper excavation, but we are dealing with a very high cliff face which would make excavating very difficult," Mr Clark said. "The cliff is eroding which is why these chance finds turn up and why it was important to remove them quickly before they were destroyed by the sea."



Builders unearth Stone Age axe

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A STONE AGE axe has been dug up during building work at a girls' school in Salisbury. The eight-inch flint hand-axe, believed to date back 250,000 years, is one of the biggest found in Britain.

Excavation work is taking place for a new arts centre at the independent Godolphin

School at Milford Hill on the edge of the city. Phil Harding of Wessex Archaeology and Channel 4's *Time Team*, has been monitoring the site because hand-axes were also found there in the 19th century. He said: "We got permission to monitor the work to see if anything interesting appeared." A flint scraper was also discovered.

Dating the site is difficult,

because such tools were in use for hundreds of thousands of years, but Mr Harding believes it is "not likely to be this side of 250,000 years ago". The tools would have been used for butchery, but no traces of animal bones have yet been found.

With the foundations now in, Mr Harding hopes that excavations for drains could bring further finds.



Neil Clark broke his leg while recovering the one-tonne slab that contains the fossilised footprints of the *coelophysis*. His impression of the beast is below



Branson take-off is up to Gaddafi

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND OLIVER AUGUST

RICHARD BRANSON was last night ready to fly to Libya to try to save his round-the-world balloon expedition if two Arab kings fail to persuade Colonel Gaddafi to allow Virgin Challenger to cross Libyan borders.

King Hassan of Morocco and King Hussein of Jordan, a close personal friend of Mr Branson, have intervened after the Libyan authorities rejected the application to enter their airspace.

A launch from Marrakesh in Morocco is pencilled in for Mr Branson's team, weather permitting, by the middle of next week. Libya is in the direct flight path after Algeria has been successfully traversed. But time is running out for the Branson team. Jet streams, which are essential to the project's success, will die out by mid-February.

Mr Branson said: "Without a yes from Libya we are in serious trouble. I am willing to go to Libya to see Colonel Gaddafi if it will help."

Meanwhile, Henk Brink, the Dutchman who is also attempting to become the first balloonist to circumnavigate the globe, said he would take off without the permission of unnamed governments. Having survived the collapse of the Fokker aeroplane company, which was storing his balloon, the weather is his biggest obstacle. An inch of snow fell in Holland yesterday.

Virgin loses TV court challenge

VIRGIN Television failed yesterday in its High Court challenge to the Independent Television Commission's rejection of its bid for the fifth terrestrial channel. Virgin and two other unsuccessful bidders, New Century Television and UKTV, claimed that the ITC acted unfairly and unlawfully in awarding the licence to Channel 5 Broadcasting after the company had increased the guaranteed funding of its business plan by £100 million. The court said that the bidding rules permitted the increase. A Virgin spokesman said the group had not decided whether to appeal.

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INSIDE



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PLUS
You could help to find Britain's best young scriptwriters as a judge of the Loyds Bank Channel 4 Film Challenge.

1015
inside the Magazine

More than 1,100 plates removed from collections across the country

Library thief plundered rare and precious books

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A LANDSCAPE gardener with a passion for antiquarian books yesterday admitted plundering plates from rare volumes worth up to £289,000 in a case which has forced a review of security at major libraries.

Joseph Bellwood, 43, who has been banned under the terms of his bail from entering any library, sold or swapped the precious material with fellow enthusiasts. Southwark Crown Court in London was told that he systematically robbed libraries over an 18-month period, making about £37,000 from the illustrations which he cut out with a sharp hobby knife.

The bespectacled bookworm is known to have removed 1,149 plates, illustrations and prints from irreplaceable books at a dozen libraries including the British Library, the London Library, Birmingham Central and Leeds Central. Closed-circuit television cameras, restricted access, and closer supervision are among security measures designed to thwart similar raids in the future.

Martin Hicks, for the prosecution, said 439 plates had been located and either recovered or their eventual destination identified, amounting to about 38 per cent of the items lost. Bellwood, from Leeds, admitted 12 sample counts of theft and damaging property.

Mr Hicks told the court: "Various outlets have been traced. Cash, cheque or swap transactions took place, and from there it is suggested he has had a proven benefit of something in the order of £37,000."

He added that the charges Bellwood had admitted "represent the substantial part of the criminality on the part of the defendant, but they are not exclusive."

Bellwood admitted stealing seven prints from *The Sporting Garland* by Cecil Aldin; four colour prints from *Picturesque Illustrations of the River Wye* by Theodore Henry Field-

ing, both belonging to the British Library; *Famous Cricketers* by Charles W Alcock; and 127 illustrations from six volumes entitled *The Holy Land* by D Roberts from the London Library; 37 colour plates from *Empire's Cricketers* by A C Taylor and *Beldam*, belonging to Leeds Central Library; and 14 colour plates from 12 *Vanity Fair* magazines belonging to Birmingham Central Library.

Mr Hicks told Judge Mota Singh, QC, that former Christie's auctioneer Anthony Payne estimated the value of the books involved at between £189,000 and £289,000.

Justin Shale, for the defence, claimed that the volumes were worth £100,000 and Bellwood's benefit £16,000. He asked for an eight week adjournment so these matters could be dealt with.

After the judge agreed to continue bail, which bans Bellwood from leaving Leeds as well as entering a library, the barrister told the court that as far as his client was



Joseph Bellwood at Southwark Crown Court, where he admitted stealing plates from antiquarian books

Ministers to ban sale of knives to children

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND STEWART TENDLER

MINISTERS are expected to ban the sale of certain types of knife to the under-16s in an effort to end the weapon-carrying culture among young teenagers.

Kitchen knives, daggers and "survival" weapons are among those most likely to be covered under new laws planned by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. The move follows the fatal stabbing of a London headmaster last month and a spate of knife attacks by young people. Mr Howard has already announced tougher sentences for anyone convicted of carrying a knife as a weapon.

The proposed ban was announced as MPs debated the Offensive Weapons Bill, introduced by the Tory MP Lady Olga Maitland and supported by the Home Office. Ministers are to consult on how a ban could be introduced and may amend the Bill or introduce separate legislation.

Tim Kirkhope, Home Office Minister, told the Commons: "Young children simply do not need razor-sharp kitchen knives or commando-style daggers and it is hard to justify why they should be able to buy them."

Last week Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, told the Home Affairs Select Committee that he would welcome any restriction on the sale of knives to young people. "There is a growing willingness by young people to carry knives... as part of a street culture," he said.

For many years police have been raising concern about the growing trend among young people to carry weapons. It may be a thin craft knife tucked into a sock, a hunting knife bought from a sports shop or one of the weapons used in martial arts. In 1985 London saw a peak of 2,758 knife offences committed by both adults and young people. By 1993 the figure had fallen to 2,332 but last year it rose again to 2,550.

Investigators have discovered branches of chain stores and small hardware shops prepared to sell knives and axes to children as young as 11 without questions being asked.

Police are, however, more likely to be concerned about the practicalities of enforcing the ban. They feel that the law will have to differentiate between a youth intent on violence and someone using a knife for camping or angling.

Yesterday the Association of Chief Police Officers gave its support to a ban: "The reasoning behind it is logical and understandable."

Novelist's village loses its policeman

BY JOANNA BALE

THE bestselling novelist Jilly Cooper has lost a campaign to keep her village policeman after Gloucestershire police confirmed that he is being moved to a housing estate near by.

Ms Cooper yesterday condemned the plan to relocate PC Malcolm Shute from the Cotswold village of Bisley to a new station on a housing estate in neighbouring Bussage, in what the force believes is a "more effective use of resources".

She described PC Shute, 25, as a "darling friend", and added: "It is madness to take our policeman away. We want to feel safe in our village and have our own policeman, like we have always had. This is just another erosion of traditional village life."

The new station is among 800 new homes on the Manor Farm estate in Bussage, near Stroud. In 1994 Ms Cooper organised a protest against building the estate and threatened to stand in front of bulldozers. She is also campaigning against plans for another 112 houses in the area, claiming that developers are ruining the countryside.

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ACCUMULATOR WINNERS
Mrs A Berry of Chearsley, near Aylesbury, Bucks, was Thursday's winner of a free flight with Virgin Atlantic. A total of 342 readers have won £5 Virgin Store vouchers.

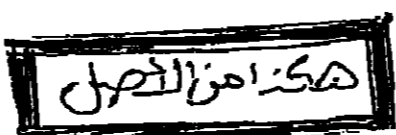
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Young children don't want cute little toys — but their parents do, says study

Bear facts reveal the truth behind teddies

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE evolution of the teddy bear has been determined by the survival of the cutest, a group of psychologists has discovered. Their appeal works on the adults who buy them, but not on the very young children who are expected to cuddle them.

The bear facts have come to light in a study to discover when children begin to display a nurturing instinct. The researchers say that up to the age of six, they would much prefer a more adult-looking bear.

Yet since the first teddy bears were made at the turn of the century, the species has evolved by becoming steadily more infantile. From a long-snouted, long-limbed bear, it has been transformed by degrees into a cute, snub-nosed, baby-like creature.

Earlier workers in the field of teddy bear evolution have suggested that baby-like bears are preferred because they stimulate "nurturing behaviour" — the desire to cuddle and cosset. But in *Animal Behaviour*, Dr Paul Morris and colleagues from the Department of Psychology at the University of Portsmouth say that the babies who are given teddy bears are far too young to want to nurture them.

"You would think they would prefer things that would give them nurture, rather than the other way



A century of evolution for a species: from left, bears of 1895, 1903, 1923, 1938, 1955, 1966, 1995 and a modern replica of a 1906 Steiff

around," he says. Tests showed he was right. Four baby-featured and four adult-featured bears were selected and shown to three groups of children: four-year-olds, six-year-olds and eight-year-olds. The bears were arranged in 16

pairs, in which one of the pair had baby features and the other adult features. The children were asked which they preferred. Among the youngest children, 17 out of 24 preferred the adult-featured bears, but the

preference switched sharply in the older children. Among the six-year-olds the baby-featured bears were preferred by 21 out of 27, and virtually the same result was reached with the eight-year-olds. The results suggest, say Dr

Morris and his co-authors, Dr Vasu Reddy and Rebecca Bunting, that the evolution of the teddy bear has not been driven by the infants for whom they are bought, but by the adults who buy them. The serious point behind the re-

search is to try to establish just when, in a growing child, nurturing behaviour begins. The results suggest that this is between the ages of four and six. "The nice thing about the study is that it showed incred-

ibly consistent results," said Dr Morris. The team also asked the children what they would do if they were given their favourite teddy. The youngest group wanted to play with them; the older groups preferred sleeping with their bears, or cuddling them, consistent with the development of nurturing behaviour.

Dr Morris says that the study shows that evolutionary pressures are still influencing current behaviour, but the artificial selection of the teddy market has not led to an improvement in the function of the bear as a companion or comfort to young children.

"Teddy bears are now better at being bought by adults, not better at being cuddled by the young children they are usually bought for," the team concludes.

Dr Morris still has teddy bears of his own and says that people used to tease him about them. "So it's nice to be able to turn teddy bears into an academic study," he says. Other adult fans are said to have included Sir John Bejeman, Donald Campbell — who took his teddy on speed record attempts — and Prince Charles.

The first official teddy was made at the turn of the century by the German manufacturer Steiff, after president Theodore Roosevelt declined to shoot a baby bear when out hunting. Last year a Steiff bear was sold for £110,000.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Bosnia: the killing fields

The 250 men were lined up in rows, then told to go to the edge of the precipice and kneel. Behind them



Jon Swain was a 60ft slope, then the vertical 1,000ft drop. The gunfire went on for 15 minutes. The men fell into the canyon below...

Jon Swain on the massacres in Bosnia — News Review. The Sunday Times tomorrow

Man hurt after 'low priority' 999

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MAN who came home to find a stolen car in his garage could be left paralysed after the thieves ran him down in it. Last night the injured man's father blamed the police after they admitted not responding immediately to his initial 999 call. West Yorkshire Police said they had given it a low priority.

Doctors in a specialist spinal unit at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield were yesterday still uncertain whether Neil Patrick, 40, an accountant, would lose the use of his legs permanently after the incident on Wednesday. His father Joseph, 69, said: "If the police had come when Neil called them none of this would have happened."

Inspector Sam Sagar, a community liaison officer, said Mr Patrick reported the stolen car at 5.41pm. It was classed as non-urgent. A foot patrol was dispatched at 6.13pm but had not arrived when Mr Patrick made a second call to report the

thieves' appearance at 6.37pm. Officers arrived by van six minutes later.

"The original call came in as a car that had been abandoned with nobody there and therefore it would be prioritised as non-urgent. Mr Patrick then phoned us again to say six youths had just returned. That upgraded the priority," Mr Sagar said.

Mr Patrick, a divorced father of two from Bradford, used his own car to block in the stolen Vauxhall Cavalier SRi. Later, when he saw the youths push his car out of the way he tried to block their path but the youths drove straight at him. He was knocked in the air, and fell unconscious into the road.

Three months ago Mr Patrick chased off two burglars from a nearby house. Ian White, 38, a neighbour said: "He couldn't stand layabouts and we all looked up to him. He protected our neighbourhood from burglars. I only hope he gets better."

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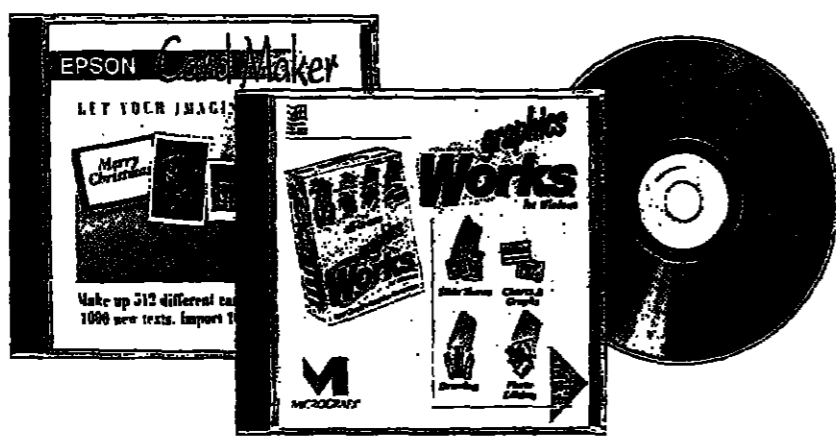
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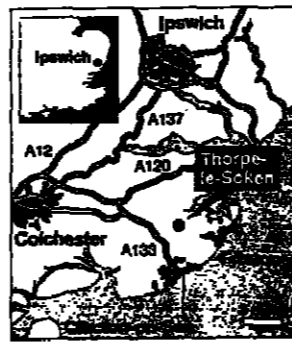
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Golf, gardens, lakes — but no Florida sunshine Essex site chosen for first US-style retirement haven



By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE first American-style retirement village in Britain, with a golf course and accommodation for almost 1,000 people, is planned for Essex.

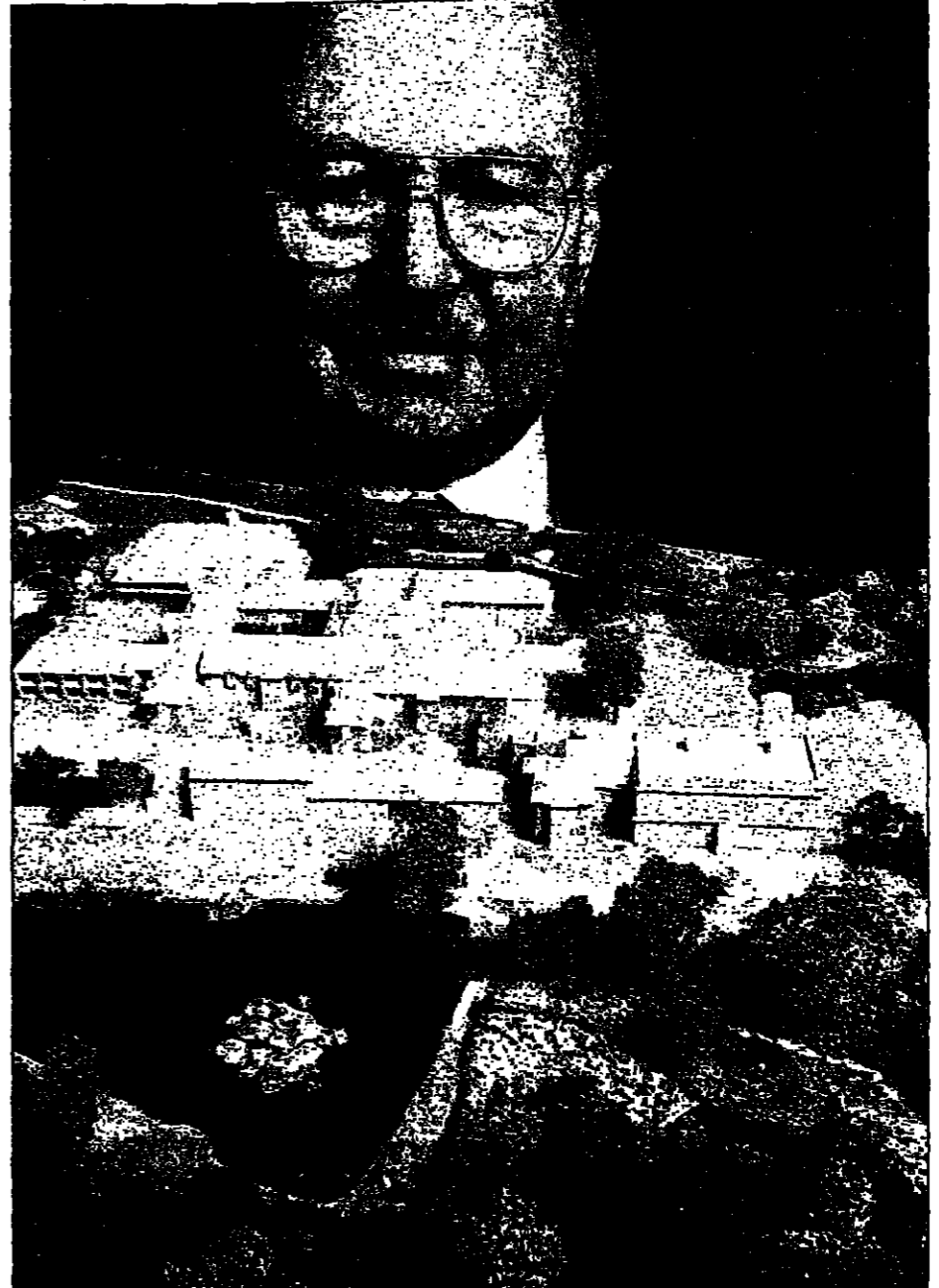
Aimed at over-55s weary of a society dominated by the mobile telephone and populated by ever younger policemen, the village is to be built on a 140-acre site at Thorpe-le-Soken, near Frinton-on-Sea. Loosely modelled on the Florida-style retirement cities that provide for all their residents' needs, the Essex village will include shops, restaurants, a medical fitness centre, a swimming pool and a nine-hole golf course "specially designed for the mature golfer". It will not, however, enjoy the Florida sunshine.

The £40 million project will include a 100-bed nursing home, 70-bed hospital, and more than 200 "close care" two-bedroom apartments, with nursing or medical help on call. To keep play moving on the golf course, 140 log cabins are planned, which will be sold to younger people as holiday accommodation on a timeshare basis.

The development will be based around Thorpe Hall, a former convalescent home owned by the Ryan Group. Dating from the 17th century, the Hall was rebuilt in the 19th century and is set in 12 acres of formal gardens and lakes. It will be renovated to include a library, business centre and restaurant with the new nursing home built next to it.

Jeremy Tasker, head of Chesterton Healthcare, the estate agents appointed as advisers to the project, said the Ryan Group was not trying to imitate the "fastness classicism" of American retirement communities, which are fenced in and patrolled by private security guards.

"Thorpe Hall is three miles from Frinton-on-Sea. We want to integrate it into the wider community. Support may grow over the years for a US-



Ken Bass, the project co-ordinator, with a model of the village. It will accommodate 1,000 people and include shops, restaurants, a fitness centre and swimming pool

style concept but it would have to be on a much larger scale."

The first residents are expected to move in at the end of next year but the project, aimed at the top of the market, will take six years to complete. The two-bedroom apartments are expected to sell for about £80,000. Residents will buy nursing services, meals or domestic help as necessary.

William Laing, director of Laing and Buisson, private care consultants, said: "It has always been thought that this concept appeals more to the Americans. Do people capable of playing golf want to live

with people confined to a nursing home? It will be a very interesting test case."

Age Concern said that the success of places such as Sun City in Florida rested on the lure of year-round sunshine. "We would urge people to make sure they know what they are buying. We would not want to see ghettos for older people to ensure they were out of sight and out of mind."

An outline planning application was submitted earlier this month to Tendring District Council. Mr Tasker said: "It is bound to be sensitive but we don't expect any difficul-

ties. The project will provide around 300 jobs and bring increased trade to the area."

Increasing numbers of elderly people will be forced to sell their homes to pay for residential care, the consumer research company Mintel said yesterday. The prediction follows a survey showing that less than 10 per cent of adults believe that long-term care insurance is a necessity. Mintel calls for more government measures to encourage people to prepare for their financial needs in old age.

Leading article, page 21

How tennis and canasta keep the golden oldies going strong

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SPORT, social life and Sanatogen are high priorities in America's growing number of retirement villages. Some are built around golf courses; others have communal dining rooms, "wellness centres" and high security fences patrolled by guards with dogs.

The communities, which have names such as Mayflower or Timber Greens, are increasingly popular in a country where the elderly are no longer automatically taken care of by their families. Retirement villages provide entertainment, friendship and, most importantly, security. Jim Sewick, administrator of the Good Samaritan community in Kissimmee, Florida, said: "People don't want to be afraid. We have patios and a fence. If residents want to go for a walk at 2am, they can and many do."

As the television programme *The Golden Girls* illustrates, Florida is popular with retirement communities, on account of its climate, but they can be found across the United States. Euphemisms are popular. Several communities refer to "the campus", hoping to suggest a return to university days. Financial arrangements vary, with some villages charging a monthly rate, others demanding a hefty downpayment which will be returned when the resident "leaves" the community (in a box). A minimum age of 62 is often stipulated before a resi-



The Golden Girls: doctors believe companionship and communal living can help people to live longer

dent can be accepted. Typical costs may include a £13,000 entrance fee and monthly service fees of £500, but these may increase if a village has amenities such as an Alzheimer's unit or a dementia centre. Other villages offer frequent bus shuttles to clinics and chemists. At the award-winning, 8,300-acre Timber

Greens community in New Port Richey, Florida, villas cost between £64,000 and £122,000 (law-mowing included). Homeowners are encouraged to engage in "youthful thinking" and play tennis with fellow retirees. Palm trees offer shade from the Florida sun and the chief danger seems to come from

ill-struck golf balls — Timber Greens is built around an 18-hole course.

The mood in US retirement villages falls somewhere between *The Golden Girls* and *Waiting for God*. Social activity directors cajole residents into Canasta evenings, gentle aerobics and self-improvement classes. Laverne Joseph of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing said: "Several community bars hold a happy hour from four to six on Fridays. That is always a very active time." It is a far cry from the bedpan image of traditional old people's homes.

Doctors believe that socialising improves health among the elderly, says Mr Joseph. "The theory is that in old age your health will deteriorate if you have a sense of isolation and if you lack stimulating activity." The communities are thriving and many now have waiting lists — testimony to the longevity they claim to promote.

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Patients spell out r...
Britain's Hollywood bows out to bingo
Leading article, page 21
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Patients say doctors failed to spell out risks of malaria drug

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON

DOCTORS are failing to warn patients of the potential side-effects of an anti-malaria drug that the manufacturer admits can cause severe psychological problems in some travellers.

More than 20 people suffering serious reactions to Lariam, the strongest anti-malaria drug on the market, have contacted *The Times* after a news report about its potential dangers four days ago.

All reported suffering psychological disturbance, fits or panic attacks after taking the drug. They all also complained that they had not been warned of possible side-effects when the drug was prescribed by their GP.

Dr Paul Clark, head of the British Airways Immunisation Clinic in London, said: "We do still prescribe Lariam but we are always particularly careful to offer full counselling about its side-effects and we are always very careful to ask detailed questions about medical history. All doctors should do the same."

Dr Thomas Stuttford, the *Times* doctor, said that doctors must give a warning and investigate medical histories. People with liver or kidney complaints or a history of depression or other psychological illness should not be given the drug. The manufac-

turer, Roche, concedes that 22 per cent of people will experience some side-effects but says its research shows that only one in 10,000 suffers "serious" problems. Lesser side-effects include dizziness and loss of balance, skin rashes and gastro-intestinal problems. However, research due to be published in the *British Medical Journal* shortly will heighten the debate about the dangers of severe reaction.

More than 70 sufferers are seeking legal aid to pursue a group action against Roche, seeking compensation. In view of reaction to the *Times* report, the figure could rise further. Dr Hamish Mackie, 43, a lecturer at Strathclyde University who contacted *The Times*, said he had been prescribed Lariam before a visit to Thailand in April last year. He collapsed in Bangkok on the day before he was due to return and blames the drug. "I had three months off work. I felt so stressed I had to lie down in a darkened room. I was finding it too stressful even to cross a road," he said. He also developed flu which persisted for two months. He said his GP had failed to warn him of the risks.



Stuttford: says doctors must scrutinise patients' records

Shirley Gallagher, 27, the press officer of the animal charity *Born Free*, experienced panic attacks after being taking Lariam for a trip to Venezuela and was sent to hospital. She has since found it too stressful to return to work, although she continues to work from home. "I feel awful," she said. "It seems to change your personality. I don't feel able to go to the office."

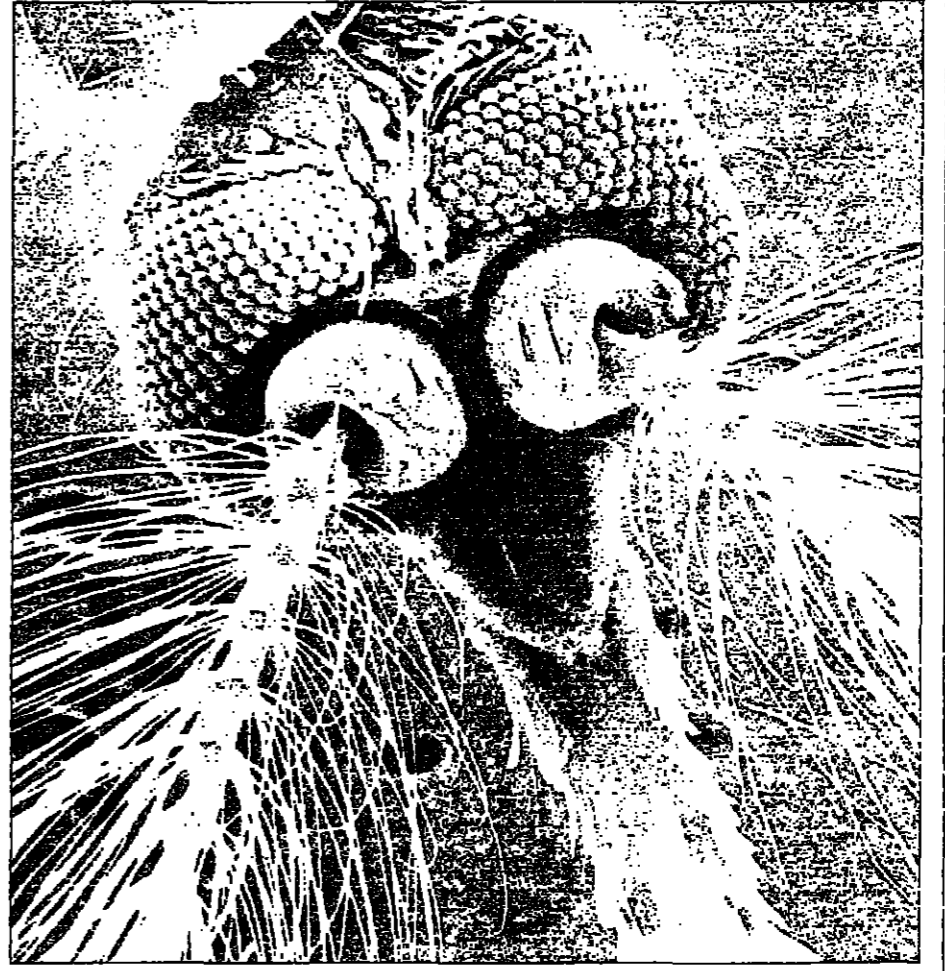
A 40-year-old sales manager with an insurance company in Dorset

believes that Lariam destroyed his family and his career. "I went on the holiday of a lifetime in July last year with my wife and daughter to Kenya," he said. "After we got back I began behaving totally irrationally. I lost my job after I punched the boss and left my wife and daughter. One is leath and blame misfortune on someone else but it is Lariam. There is no other explanation." He returned to his wife and daughter last week. "My wife told me that person just wasn't me. It was the drug."

Several people taking the drug have reported hallucinations. A student from Exeter, who asked not to be named, said: "I took Lariam a year ago for a visit to Africa and started hallucinating. I was given an orange to eat at the airport and I thought it was alive. It was moving. I still get panic attacks today."

When Lariam appeared on the market in 1990 it was hailed as a breakthrough in the fight against a disease which kills about 20 British travellers to Africa, India and other tropical zones every year. Based on the drug mefloquine it was first developed by the US Army in Vietnam.

Roche has circulated GPs and travel clinics with information about the side-effects of the drug but stands by its research results.



The mosquito spreads malaria and other diseases that still threaten travellers

Clergy fear cinema's crosses will offend

By ROBIN YOUNG

A FORMER Archbishop of Canterbury has joined a campaign to have stone crosses removed from a chapel before it is converted into a cinema.

The Rt Rev Lord Coggan, Archbishop from 1974 until 1980, is among a score of church and army leaders who have written to city planners in Winchester, Hampshire, to ask that three crosses be taken from the roof of the former garrison chapel at the Peninsula Barracks before the cinema opens next month. He said yesterday: "I think it will muddy people's minds to see a cinema with three crosses on its roof. I have no difficulty with the conversion of churches to secular use, but I do not think crosses should remain on a cinema."

Canon Colin Deedes, a former Master of St Cross in Winchester, said: "They could be an offence to all for whom the Christian symbol is deeply significant."

The city planners say that because the former chapel is a listed building the crosses cannot be removed without permission from English Heritage. The cinema's management has suggested covering them with metal discs so that they cannot be seen.

Britain's Hollywood bows out to bingo

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Gainsborough film studios, once the most famous in the British film industry, are likely to be pulled down to make way for a bingo hall.

A small exhibition in the foyer will be the only reminder of 30 years of film production in which the studios, beside a canal in Hoxton, east London, produced a succession of quintessentially British classics under the trademark of the Gainsborough Lady, based on a portrait by the artist.

The studios started as the British headquarters of Paramount in 1919 and were taken over by Michael Balcon's Gainsborough Pictures in 1924. Alfred Hitchcock made his first important film, *The Lodger*, there in 1926 and returned in 1938 to make one of his most famous, *The Lady Vanishes*. Throughout the 1930s Britain's "Hollywood by the canal" kept up a steady output of popular films.

But with increasing costs and the advent of television Gainsborough Pictures went out of production in the early 1950s and the studios closed. Top Rank has filed an application for a 2,000-seat bingo hall and 24 flats on the site.

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Church needs strategy for all ages to stop 'decline into religious illiteracy'

New bishop warns of moral vacuum threatening cities

By Russell Jenkins

ACTION is needed to stop Britain's rapid decline into a religiously illiterate society, the new Bishop of London said yesterday. In his enthronement address at St Paul's Cathedral, the Right Rev Richard Chartres said there was an urgent need for the Church to communicate its mission and to challenge a "moral vacuum" threatening inner cities.

He called on Anglicans to exploit the potential of modern communications, and to get out and engage in honest dialogue with contemporaries rather than "retreat into any ghetto of piety".

The message was delivered against a background of controversy. Outside the cathedral, activists for Action for Gay and Lesbian Ordination staged a demonstration in protest at the new bishop's refusal to ordain women as

priests. Bishop Chartres, 48, a father of four and formerly Area Bishop of Stepney, replaces Dr David Hope, who was enthroned as Archbishop of York in December. He is the 132nd Bishop of London — the Church's third most senior job — and a traditionalist and strong family man who has warned of the threat of moral barbarism in cities.

From the pulpit, Bishop Chartres said he agreed with Dr Nicholas Tate, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, who recently expressed concern about moral relativism and the need for young people to receive stronger guidance. "I believe he is right when he suggests that Britain is fast becoming a religiously illiterate society and that in some places we are threatened by a moral vacuum."

It was the Church's job to communicate life, he said. "The Church should be true

communication. She should not just engage in the business of getting our message across. The Christian Gospel is not just another ideology or problem-solving package. It is a communication of the life of God through Jesus Christ.

"The Church of England has the responsibility of equipping itself to communicate in the public realm and to recognise the potential for good in new media of communication. True communication with our neighbours involves following Jesus as we see him in dialogue with a great variety of surprising people in the Gospels."

There should be more religious education in schools, he said, but churches ought to have clear educational strategies for every age group.

The new bishop echoed calls for the millennium celebrations to be given a greater spiritual dimension, saying it



Strong family man: the new bishop with wife Caroline and their children

was up to the Church to "remind people whose millennium it will be".

An estimated 2,500 people attended the service, conducted by the Dean of St Paul's, The Very Rev Eric Evans. The Venerable Michael Till, the Archdeacon of Canterbury, officially installed Bishop Chartres into the Episcopal Throne. Cardinal Basil Hume

represented the Roman Catholic Church at the service. Also taking part were Archbishop Gregorios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyatira and Great Britain, The Rev Kathleen Richardson, Moderator of the Free Church, and other ecumenical leaders.

Bishop Chartres has gone on record as saying he will work in partnership with the

70 women priests in his diocese but will not ordain women himself.

He has said there will be no witchhunts against homosexual clergy, although he believes strongly that the church allows for either celibacy or lifelong, faithful marriage.

At your service, Weekend, page 3

Credo

The truth that lights the way for all creeds

Geoffrey Rowell

AMONG the minor changes in the Book of Common Prayer, when it was reissued in 1662 after the Restoration of Charles II, was the provision of a subtitle for the Feast of the Epiphany: "the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles". That theme contrasted the adoration of the Jewish shepherds at Christmas with the gifts of the Magi representing the homage of the non-Jewish world to the infant Christ. The Feast of Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, on February 2, picks up both themes with Simeon's *Nunc Dimittis* hailing the child brought to the temple by Mary and Joseph as "the Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Israel".

Jesus was hailed by Christians as the promised Messiah, the Christ of God. Yet "Messiah" and "Christ" — one a Hebrew word, the other Greek, meaning simply "the anointed one" — are words that belong to the prophetic longing of the Jewish faith, a longing for God's deliverance to be brought about by the coming of God's chosen deliverer.

When the Christian faith spread into the non-Jewish world, Christians were immediately faced with an apologetic task. If Jesus was the revelation of God, then what was his relationship to the philosophy and the religious practices of the non-Jewish world? How was a word like "Christ" to be made sense of to those not nurtured on the Jewish scriptures?

There were those who took a strong, exclusive line. The fierce North African lawyer, Tertullian, asked about the year 200: "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?" The answer, for him, was nothing. Yet, ironically, his own Christian writings betray the influence of Greek Stoic philosophy upon him. Athens did in fact have something to do with Jerusalem, even if he did not admit it.

About the time of Jesus, the Jewish thinker Philo of Alexandria had tried to build bridges between Judaism and Platonic philosophy, making use of the concept of the *Logos*, the Wisdom or Word of God, the mediator between the Creator and creation. Greek wisdom was not incompatible with God's revelation to Israel. Justin, who was martyred in Rome in the year 165 for his Christian faith, followed Philo and saw Jesus, the Wisdom and Word of God, as the fulfiller of the Greek search for truth as well as of Hebrew prophecy. "Seeds of the word" were to be found in the hearts and minds of all who sought the truth. Other early Christian writers, like Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, were prepared to see Christ as the fulfiller of religious yearning, and to acknowledge the Spirit of God working outside the Church, but stood sternly against Gnostic groups who made Jesus part of elaborate, metaphysical cosmologies. For Irenaeus you might as well substitute the gourds and cucumbers of the market for the esoteric names of Gnostic speculation.

As Christians today seek to hold fast to Jesus Christ as the Word made flesh, they can draw much from those early Christian apologists who found in Christ the fulfilment of all deep spiritual yearning, and all endeavours to set forth eternal truth.

The Church of England report, *The Mystery of Salvation*, was right to reaffirm that we deny the truth and goodness which Christ, as *Logos*, and God by the Spirit, can also inspire in those of other faiths and of none.

The Christ manifested to the Gentiles is the one who "gathers up the scattered fragments of truth and makes of them a perfect mirror".

□ The Right Reverend Dr Geoffrey Rowell is Bishop of Basingstoke.



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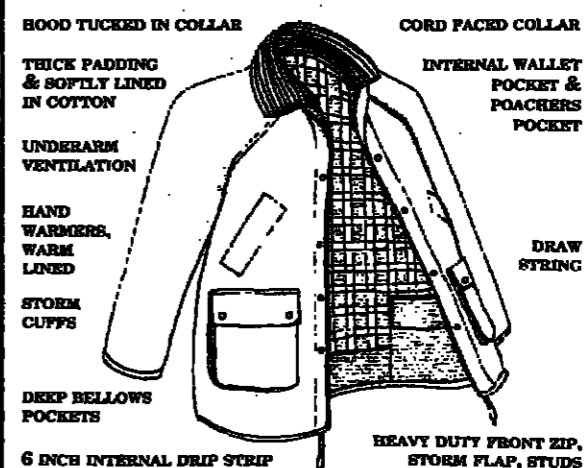


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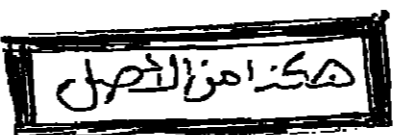
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Republic Day plea for clean-up in public life

India's corruption 'threat to national security'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA observed Republic Day yesterday in a mood of unprecedented despair.

The chaotic state of politics, the spread of corruption in business and government, and uncertainty about the direction of economic reforms have left the country more divided and troubled than perhaps at any time in 49 years of independence.

President Sharma, in an address on the eve of Republic Day, said corruption, criminalisation of politics, caste discrimination and communal strife threatened national security. In a clear reference to a torrent of corruption scandals shaking the nation, he exhorted "persons holding prominent public offices to be in the forefront in the movement for a cleaner public life".

His appeal — front-page news yesterday — came at a time of national disgust with political leaders who have been slandering each other with abandon in recent weeks

after the implication of members of every national party in a bribery scandal. Only the Communists and regional parties have come out clean.

Three Cabinet ministers have resigned and been charged with taking money from a businessman; L.K. Advani, a leader of the opposition, resigned from parliament after denying bribery charges; P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, refuted opposition claims that he accepted hundreds of thousands of pounds in backhanders; many MPs and several leading state government dignitaries are under pressure to resign for alleged corruption.

The decay of the political system is forcing the Supreme Court increasingly to impose its will on the Government. But for the court's sustained pressure, the Central Bureau of Investigation, a tool of the Prime Minister, would never have pursued the corruption charges, since no national

party was keen on them. The scandal is based on the diaries of a businessman, S.K. Jain, who kept a list of politicians he supposedly bribed. The CBI said he had told police he gave 35 million rupees (£636,000) to the Prime Minister.

So parious is the state of government that Biju Patnaik, a senior leader of the left-of-centre Janata Dal, suggested that the army should take over the running of the country.

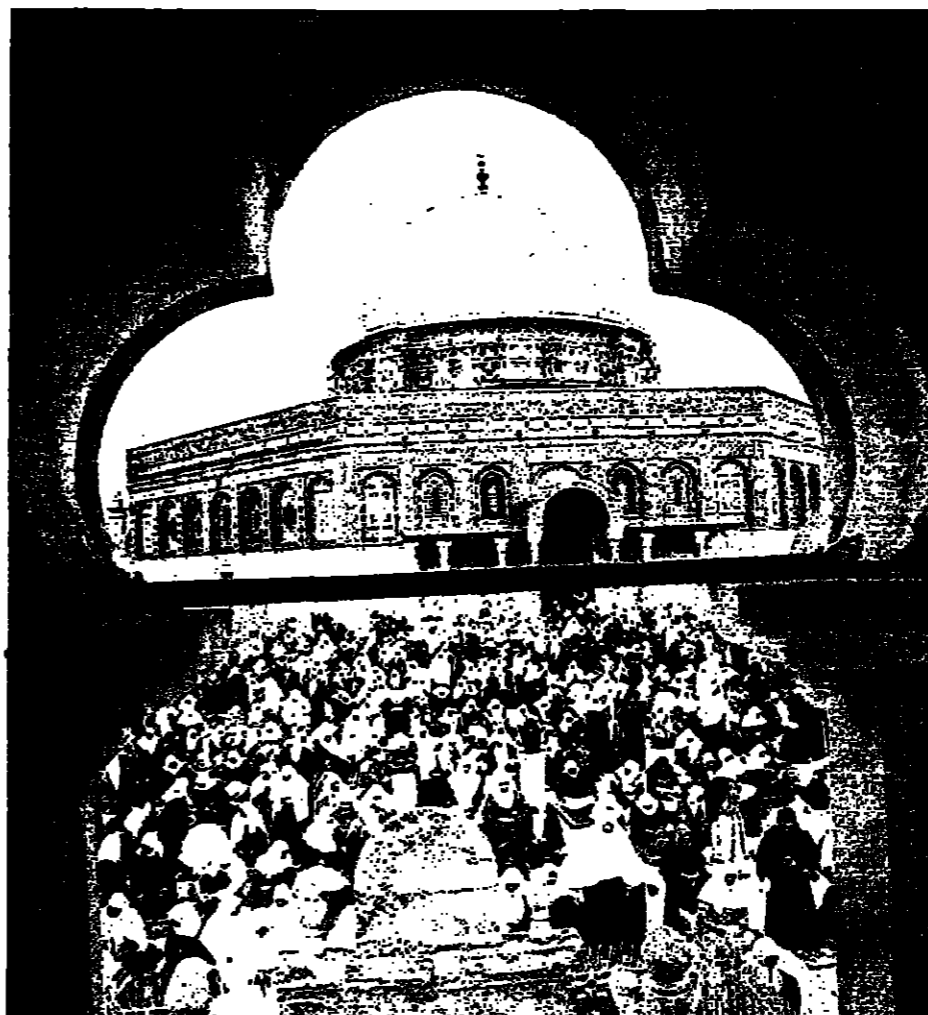
The President's attack on communalism, the euphemism for Hindu-Muslim conflict, came two days after the pro-Hindu state government in Maharashtra announced it was winding up a three-year investigation into anti-Muslim riots that killed hundreds in December 1992 and January 1993 in Bombay, the state capital. This has disgusted Muslim leaders and further emphasised the religious divide. The inquiry was about to expose the role of Shiv Sena, an extremist party that has

since come to power in Bombay, in the killings.

The economic reforms are mostly on hold because they are unpopular at the grassroots, but they will be resumed whoever comes to power after the general election, expected in March or April. The increasing rich-poor divide worries many Indians who see it as a recipe for social unrest.

Nobody in the upper reaches of Government can be confident that the "trickle-down" theory of wealth can work when hundreds of millions play no part in the economy. Most wealth in India is held by the 3 per cent of the people who speak English and who do well from the reforms. New outward signs of mega-wealth are superficial signs of prosperity. Even sustained economic growth of 7 per cent would take years to make an impact at the grass roots.

Photograph, page 24



Ramadan prayers drew over 160,000 Muslims to al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem yesterday

Self-rule Muslims barred at Ramadan

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISRAEL banned Palestinians from the Gaza Strip self-rule enclave from entering Jerusalem hours before the first Friday prayers of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan yesterday. Entry for people living in the West Bank was restricted.

Police had been reinforced because of fears that there could be unrest after the prayers at Islam's third holiest shrine, the al-Aqsa mosque, Israel's army radio said.

The move is bound to anger the Palestinian National Authority administering the self-rule areas.

At the same time, an end to blanket conscription of Israelis into the army was sought by the outgoing general in charge of personnel, who told Israel Radio the country had thousands of unnecessary soldiers. Brigadier General Israel Einhorn, who has completed 25 years of service, said about 20 per cent of conscripted soldiers no longer completed the three years of mandatory service.

Venezuela's former Miss Universe seeks presidency

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN CARACAS

IRENE SÁEZ is beautiful and rich — and hoping to use the charm and fluttering eyelashes that won her the Miss Universe crown in 1981 to become the next President of Venezuela.

The 34-year-old, 6ft former beauty queen could be playing a part in one of her country's feisty soap operas. But her story is real.

Four years ago she left the catwalk to campaign to become mayor of the leafy, middle-class district of Chacao in the capital Caracas, home to two million people. To the surprise of many she won, and carved herself a niche in Venezuela's macho-style politics.

As mayor, Señorita Sáez has cut notorious crime rates and cleaned up streets in her district, now the envy of other areas in the capital where dilapidated tower blocks and shanty towns dominate.

Two weeks ago she ran again and won another mayoral term with a majority of 96 per cent. An independent, she emphasises her distance from old-style parties and, after two victories, plans to run in presidential elections, scheduled to take place in two years' time.



Sáez rich, beautiful and with brains, too

"People need me and if that means that I have to take my political career further, then I am ready for it," she said in her mayoral office, its walls covered in photographs and paintings of herself.

The youngest of six children, Señorita Sáez was born into a well-off middle-class family and, apart from entering beauty contests, she has a political science degree.

Opinion polls put her 15 percentage points ahead of the septogenarian President Caldera, blamed for the country's economic crisis and volatile political situation.



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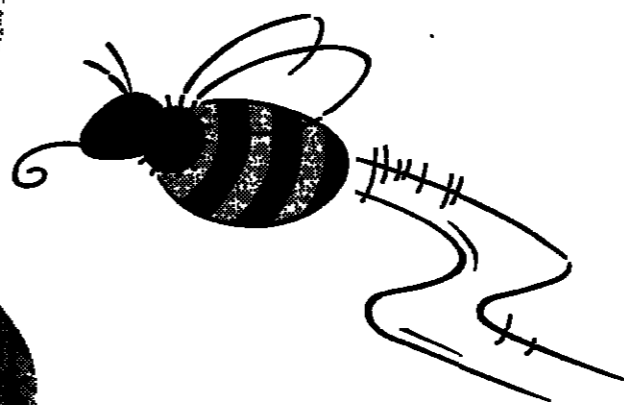
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Farrakhan given \$1bn war chest by Gaddafi

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TWO of Washington's most stalwart enemies appeared yesterday to have fashioned an unholy alliance to influence American elections and foreign policy as part of a pledge to spend \$1 billion (£666 million) on "Muslim causes" in the United States.

After a meeting in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, between Louis Farrakhan, the highly controversial black leader of the Nation of Islam, and Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, there was said to be strong consensus on funding an effort to unify Muslim groups in America.

"Our confrontation with America was like a fight against a fortress from outside, and today we found a breach to enter into this fortress and confront it," Colonel Gaddafi said in a statement issued by Jana, the official Libyan news agency. He also called for the creation in America of a separate black state with its own army manned by black soldiers from the US armed forces.

Mr Farrakhan, who has gained prominence among black Americans after organising a "Million Man March" on Washington last year to promote black separatism, made no response yesterday. Calls to his Chicago headquarters were unanswered.

But he was quoted by Jana



Farrakhan: money to fund Muslim causes

as being "happy" with the results of his meeting "to unify Arabs, Muslims, blacks and persecuted groups in America to play a strong role not only in the American elections but also in US foreign policy".

Libyan sponsorship of international terrorism, including the funding of IRA factions and the failure to deliver for trial in the West two Libyans suspected in the 1983 Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people, has left the country under stiff United Nations sanctions since 1992.

Last year Colonel Gaddafi challenged the UN ban on flights by organising aircraft to take his followers on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, and he has long been a champion of those he claims are oppressed.

It was not the first time he had met Mr Farrakhan, a man who has not merely called for black separatism but also has described Jews as "bloodsuckers", Judaism as "a gutter religion", and the Holocaust as nothing compared to the slavery of blacks.

Their relationship goes back to 1985, when Colonel Gaddafi lent the Nation of Islam \$5 million for various business projects. In the same year, he told members of the radical organisation via satellite that he wanted to help black Americans in an armed struggle to overthrow oppression. Mr Farrakhan is said to have thanked the Libyan politely but rejected his offer of arms.

This week's meeting was seen as the conclusion of Colonel Gaddafi's appeal last year to organise ten million Muslims in America when he said he would spend up to \$1 billion to set up such a lobby.

The Libyan leader, however, is known to exaggerate and in the past has made what can only be described as hallucinatory statements, such as the proposal that his son marry President Clinton's daughter, Chelsea to improve relations between Libya and America.

Execution fails to draw jail protesters

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN BLUFFDALE, UTAH

AFTER a life defined by misery, John Albert Taylor failed even in his final hope of embarrassing Utah state with his death by firing squad.

Floodlights were set up for protesters on a hill above Bluffdale's snowbound execution chamber, but none came. The head of Utah's prisons noted with satisfaction that five hunting rifles had proved quicker and no less sanitary than a lethal injection. A journalist who saw the convicted child killer's chest slam back into his chair called it "an honest way to die".

After a day of bleak and sometimes moving ritual inside the death-watch cell, and intense security outside it, Taylor was collected at 11.45pm on Thursday by 11 guards. Asked by the warden if he had any last words, Taylor, strapped to the chair, said quietly but firmly: "I'd just like to say for my family and friends, as the poem was written, 'remember me, but let me go'. That's it." The shots were fired 45 seconds later.

"All I heard was the last number in the countdown, number three," Craig Wall, a visibly distressed television reporter, said. "Then a very loud boom. I saw his chest heave up, his left hand tighten, relax and tighten again. The cloth target on his chest just seemed to disappear. It left me feeling kind of numb."

The mother of Charla King, 11, whom he was convicted of murdering in 1989, did not attend.

After a standard prison lunch Taylor telephoned an ex-girlfriend and was visited by two family members. Complaining that his stomach was "doing flip-flops", he was given medication before a special late afternoon meal of pizza and Coca-Cola. He wrote a will, prayed, sang hymns, "discussed the after-life", and wept.

Taylor, who was abused by his stepfather, pleaded innocent to Charla's murder. Branded a "remorseless paedophile", he never confessed, although his relatives did not contest his guilt. Among his visitors was a sister, Laura, who gave evidence that he had raped her.



Faith in the future: Deshung Rinpoche IV, also known as His Holiness Nawang Kunga Tegchen Chokyi Nyima, with his mother, Carolyn Lama, at their Seattle home. The four-year-old, who is believed to be the reincarnation of a revered Buddhist lama, will be travelling to Tibet for ten years of training as a spiritual leader

Rise of Forbes rattles Dole camp

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE aura of inevitability that surrounded Robert Dole's bid for the Republican presidential nomination is vanishing fast.

A batch of new polls in key states shows an alarming slip in his support while that of his closest rival, the multimillionaire publisher Steve Forbes, continues steadily to rise. Those trends are likely to have been accelerated by Mr Dole's dismal response to President Clinton's State of the Union address, which convinced many Republicans Mr Clinton would defeat the 72-year-old Senate leader in

November. The latest poll in Iowa, which holds the nation's first seriously contested caucuses in just over two weeks, gave Mr Dole 26 per cent, Mr Forbes 18 and Phil Gramm, Pat Buchanan and Lamar Alexander seven each.

Mr Dole and Mr Gramm have vastly superior organisations to Mr Forbes's in Iowa, meaning their supporters are much more likely to turn out on the night. The figures nonetheless chilled the Dole camp, which knows that if their man wins less than the 38 per cent he secured against Vice-President Bush in the

1988 caucuses, he will be an extremely weak and vulnerable frontrunner.

His presidential rivals naturally seized on his wretched performance to challenge his strongest claim to the nomination - that he is the candidate best equipped to defeat Mr Clinton. But the criticism extended far beyond his rivals.

Even Rush Limbaugh, the radio talk show host and arbiter of conservative opinion, joined the attack, fretting that Mr Clinton would be re-elected "if this is the best we can do".

mism has evaporated. Though he is campaigning virtually fulltime, he sounds a little rattled.

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Quarterback tackled by politically correct lobby

BY QUENTIN LETTS

POLITICAL correctness has reached that toughest of arenas, American football. A white player in tomorrow's Superbowl has been accused of racism because of the language he uses when exhorting his black team mates.

Troy Aikman, quarterback for the mighty Dallas Cowboys, allegedly

singled out black colleagues for his bluest epithets. The quarterback is a pivotal man on the American football field, and customarily shouts instructions to the various attack players.

According to an anonymous complaint, Mr Aikman was unduly aggressive when addressing black players. Television footage showed him angrily slamming the ball down

at the feet of a black player after an unsuccessful manoeuvre. The matter was reported to the Cowboys' coach, Barry Switzer, who already had a strained relationship with his star quarterback. The two are now barely talking.

The controversy dominated the Cowboys' preparations in Arizona for Superbowl 30 tomorrow, when they

will take on the little-fancied Pittsburgh Steelers. Mr Aikman was swamped by reporters and asked if he was a racist. "I have no problem with my relationships with anyone on this team," he said of the Cowboys, but added that there was "some legitimacy" to accounts of what had occurred. Black teammates of Mr Aikman came to his defence yesterday.

FBI seizes drawings stolen in 1967

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

STOLEN works of art by Henry Moore and Pablo Picasso has been recovered in California, 28 years after they were taken from the University of Michigan.

The two pen-and-ink drawings, each worth an estimated \$100,000 (£66,500), were taken for evaluation to a San Francisco auctioneer by a woman who appears to have had no connection with their theft.

The San Francisco firm made contact with the Henry Moore Foundation in Hertfordshire to confirm the authenticity and determine the value of the Moore, a 1929 sketch entitled *Seated Figure*. The foundation checked its records, discovered that the drawing had been stolen in Michigan in 1967 and then discreetly alerted its former owner.

The university made contact with the FBI in California, which seized the drawings and questioned the woman.

"At the moment, no charges have been made, as there is no reason to believe that she knew the drawings were stolen," Greg Stejskal, an FBI agent said. "It would not normally be a smart move to take art to an auction house for evaluation when you knew it had been stolen." Nor, Mr Stejskal said, could the original thief be prosecuted because it was now too late under the statute of limitations. People who handled the stolen works of art more recently could be charged.

The Picasso drawing is a 1919 work entitled *Sketched from a Window*. Both drawings are in good condition and will be returned to the University of Michigan when the investigation is over.

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'After Hong Kong there is Macau and Taiwan in Long March to reunification'

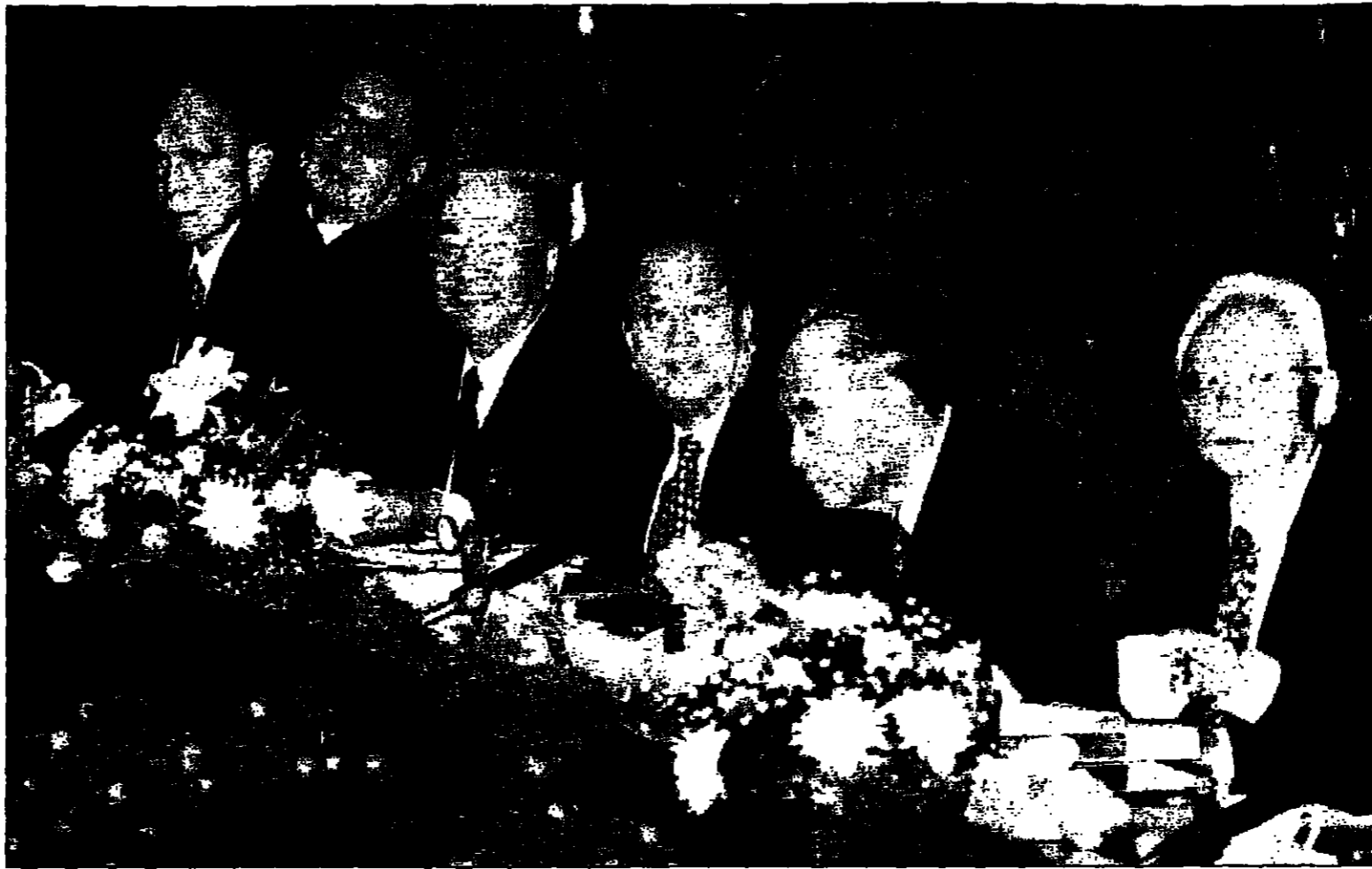
Jiang picks tycoon to take over from Patten

By JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND JAMES FRINGLE

PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN yesterday welcomed the establishment of a Chinese-appointed committee that will reimpose Chinese rule over Hong Kong next year, when British authority ends, and said it was a first station on what he called China's Long March to reunification.

The installation of the 150 members of the Preparatory Committee — none of them members of Hong Kong's biggest political grouping, the Democratic Party — at a ceremony in Peking was being watched with apprehension in the British territory.

Speaking in the Great Hall of the People to the delegates assembled for the formal founding of the committee, to be led by Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, Mr Jiang implied the way Hong Kong is handled could affect the issue of the return of Macau and Taiwan to China. Diplomats said this provides some safeguards for Hong Kong residents, given Peking's concerns about reuniting Taiwan with the mainland. The committee — which includes an eclectic mix of academics, lawyers and business tycoons from the



Qian Qichen, Chinese Foreign Minister, third from left, at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Hong Kong yesterday

territory and uniformed Chinese army generals, officials and Communist Party cadres — will be in charge of setting up a new legislature and government, and thus dismantling the arrangements introduced by Britain, particularly the widening of the franchise under the electoral reforms introduced by Chris Patten, the colony's Governor, which have infuriated Peking.

"In terms of reunification, the return of Hong Kong to the motherland is the first station in our Long March," Mr Jiang said as letters of appointment to each of the 150 members, 94 from Hong Kong and 56 from the mainland, were handed out. "After that, there is Macau and finally Taiwan."

After the ceremony, Mr Jiang pointedly walked down a line of committee members to shake hands with Tung Chee-hua, a shipping magnate whose name has been mentioned as a possible first Chief Executive who will take Mr Patten's place on July 1, 1997. It effectively placed Peking's imprimatur on Mr Tung as China's designate for Hong Kong's Chief Executive.

It was a striking, some

might say crude, pre-emption of the Preparatory Committee's only really important responsibility: picking an "election committee" of 400 who some time later this year will choose the Chief Executive, who in turn will select an inner core of senior officials, many of them already serving the present Government, who many say will form, not a shadow government, but long before the handover Hong Kong's actual ruling body.

For a year the names of possible candidates to be Chief Executive have been Hong Kong's favourite political guessing game. The population's overwhelming favourite is Anson Chan, the Chief Executive and Deputy Governor. Ms Chan, a 30-year veteran of the civil service, is the bureaucracy's long-for selection. But her very abilities and her long service to Britain seemed to rule her out.

But Mr Tung has long been a Peking favourite. A stupendously rich tycoon, with the

Shanghai background that would especially appeal to President Jiang, whose "Shanghai clique" forms the leading group in China, Mr Tung is a member of the People's Political Consultative Conference, a group of mainland and overseas Chinese worthies billed as advisers. He is also in Mr Patten's Executive Committee or Cabinet.

"We will have a bright future if we do with this first station of Hong Kong," the Chinese President and party chief told the delegates, adding that they faced a tough task to complete their work in the less than 17 months remaining before the handover. "You have a long way to go."

China resumes sovereignty over the Portuguese colony of Macau in 1999, but reunification with Taiwan appears distant, with ties between Peking's Communist rulers and the island's Nationalists increasingly bitter over what China sees as an effort by President Lee of Taiwan, fac-

WORLD SUMMARY
Colombia ministers resign

The future of President Samper of Colombia's is in doubt after the resignation yesterday of two Cabinet Ministers, who said they lacked confidence in a President tainted by "links with the drugs cartels" (Gabriella Garnini writes).

The President is accused of accepting more than \$4 million from the Cali cartel to help his 1994 election campaign, and is coming under increasing pressure to resign. Juan Gomez, the Minister of Transport, and Luis Ramos, Commerce Minister, made their announcements after key ambassadors quit.

Chretien shuffles his Cabinet

Ottawa: Jean Chretien, Canada's Prime Minister, shuffled his Cabinet and brought in two federalist Quebec academics to boost the cause of federalism in the province (Richard Cleroux writes). Stephane Dion, a Montreal university professor, becomes president of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Inter-Governmental Affairs. Pierre Pettigrew, an expert on foreign affairs, becomes Minister for International Co-operation.

Early snowfalls kill Tibetans

Peking: Heavy snowfalls have killed 13 people and 51,000 head of livestock in a high mountain valley inhabited mainly by Tibetans. More than 3ft of snow has fallen in Shiqu county since the storms began in mid-December, a month earlier than usual. Persistent sub-zero temperatures have caused 11,000 residents to suffer frostbite. (AFP)

Spaced out

Montpellier: Police and psychiatrists were helping a man who sought their aid in tracing his lost vehicle — a spaceship on which he claimed to have landed 350 years ago. He said he needed to return to his planet as he left his guitar there. (AFP)

European specialists reported to be treating Saddam for cancer

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

INTELLIGENCE experts in the Middle East were attempting yesterday to verify reports that President Saddam Hussein is suffering from lymphatic cancer.

The claim, which appeared first in *Foreign Report*, the London-based, limited-circulation newsletter produced by *The Economist* and known for its links to Western intelligence agencies, was given international prominence when it

was published yesterday on the front page of *The Jerusalem Post*.

The paper's well-connected London correspondent, Douglas Davis, said that sources in the Middle East had disclosed to *Foreign Report* that the 58-year-old Iraqi leader was receiving treatment from European cancer specialists who had been summoned to Baghdad where, due to United Nations sanctions, medicines are in short supply.

According to the *Post* account, which caused a sensation in embas-

sies in Israel and the Arab world, Saddam is said to be receiving radiation therapy and steroids which have left him bloated. The *Post* reported: "The cancer is described as a form of Hodgkin's disease, which is not necessarily fatal if detected at an early stage."

Western diplomats reacted cautiously to the story, which one noted could have "far-reaching and potentially explosive" repercussions for the region if it is true. Intelligence analysts said that it was common for senior members of the

Baghdad regime to be treated by medical teams from Europe.

"It is impossible at this stage to say for certain whether this report is true or whether it is deliberate disinformation spread by one or more foreign intelligence agencies for their own particular agenda," Ofra Bengio, leading Iraqi expert at Israel's Dayan Centre, said.

Barry Rubin, author of a new book, *Iraq's Road to War*, said: "I read the story with fascination. Because of the source there is a 50 per cent chance it is true and a 50

per cent chance it is disinformation — and at this stage, I cannot say which."

A number of other Arab leaders are suffering from serious health problems that could easily destabilise the region if they should prove fatal. King Hussein of Jordan, the leading supporter of the new peace process with Israel, had a kidney removed after cancer was diagnosed. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has recently been forced to hand over power because of failing health; and President Assad of

Syria is suffering from an unspecified blood disease which diplomats claim is leukaemia.

"The report on Saddam's alleged cancer is detailed enough to lend it some veracity, but such is the secrecy that surrounds his life in Baghdad and the lack of access to him, that we are not likely to find out definitely one way or another," a European diplomat said. "The trouble with checking its veracity is that there is a lot of wishful thinking, so many people would like it to be true."

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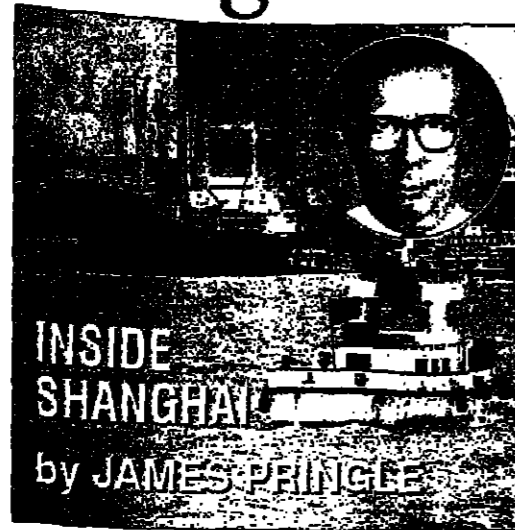
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سكا من النص

Dragon's head gets a taste for raw capitalism



Shanghai may be booming, but behind the city's prosperity lie the Communist Party's iron grip and doubts about the future intentions of Peking

ONCE it was the Paris of the Orient, but for decades after the Chinese Communists came to power in 1949 Shanghai either languished or became a bastion of leftism.

Now, at last, the city seems to have taken off again with a vengeance. Gleaming new hotels are stuffed with foreign businessmen, bankers and property dealers hoping to cash in on the bonanza.

Shanghai's famed entrepreneurial spirit appears to have been set free. More than half a million play the stock market, housed in the 1860 Astor Hotel's ballroom, where vestiges of China's current Communist leaders stare down from the walls on a scene of raw capitalism.

In the past three years, since the paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, belatedly opened the floodgates by giving the go-ahead for this huge entrepôt port near the mouth of the Yangtze river to "get rich" like the coastal cities of south China, a frenzy of activity has included construction of bridges, tunnels, flyovers, ring-roads and hotels.

"The Yangtze is like a drag-

on crossing China with Shanghai as the dragon head," says Zhang Sanfu, boss of Yachua Pilkington Glass, a Sino-British venture in Pudong. "Already we are catching up and I believe that in the next century Shanghai will become the most important city in China."

Pudong (East River) is a 200-square-mile complex of industrial parks, giant department stores and housing developments rising on the mudflats across the Whangpoo river from the Bund, Asia's best-known waterfront with its former foreign banks and trading houses.

On the rare day when the winter smog that wreathes the city lifts, the view from the top of the futuristic 1,544ft Oriental Pearl tower, dominating the Bund from the Pudong side of the Whangpoo, is of hundreds of building sites topped by cranes where tens of thousands of transient labourers work beside pounding pile-drivers.

"You really have the sense that Shanghai has taken off and will once again become an international centre of trade

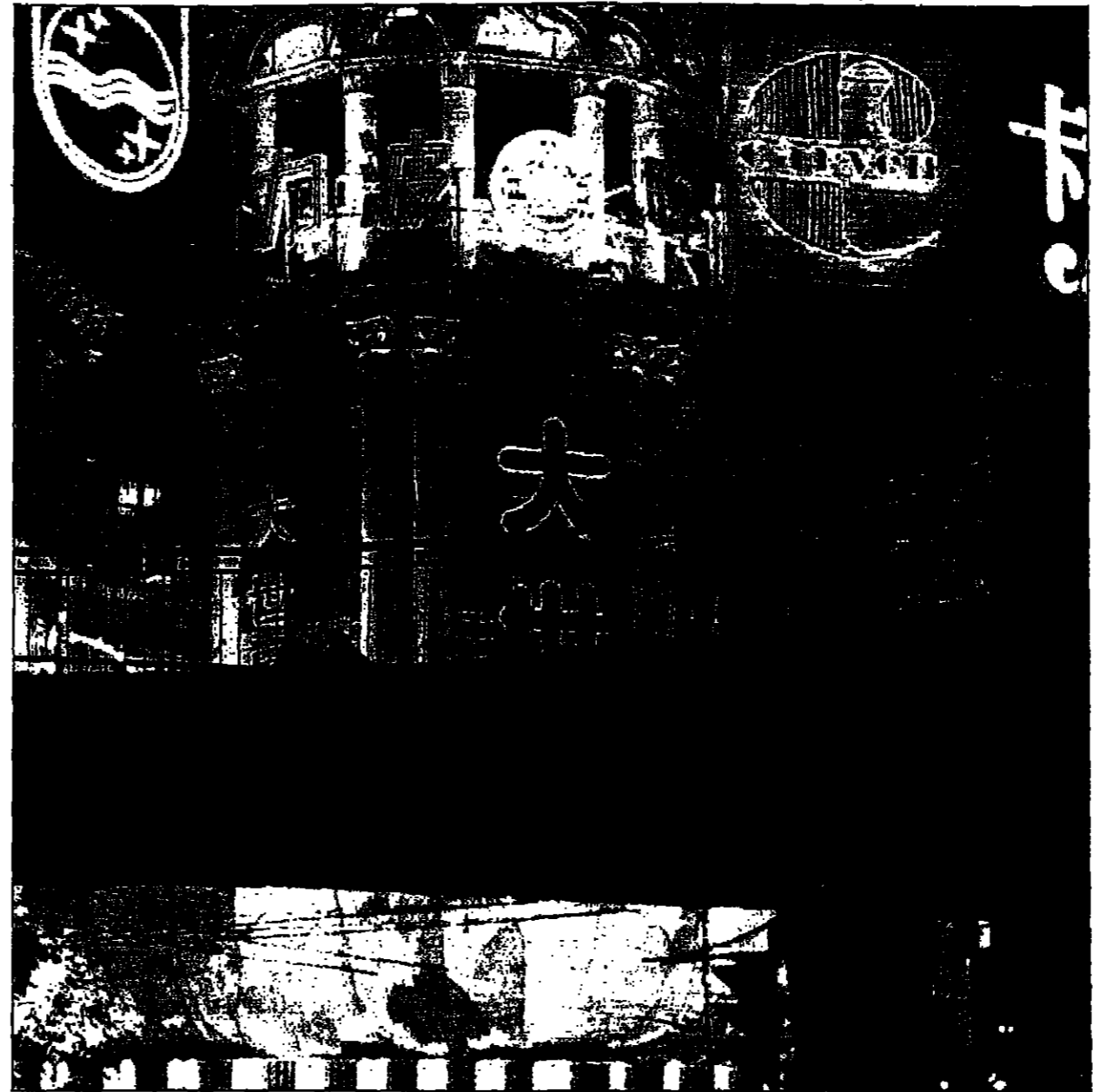
and finance," says Dr Terry Ginty, of Manchester, who has been overseeing the Pilkington venture since the early Eighties.

This vibrant Shanghai is a far cry from the sad, grim city of two decades ago during the Cultural Revolution. Then children were taught to hate flowers and told to grow herbs. Even in the late Eighties, investment-starved Shanghai had a lacklustre feel. Yet beneath today's glittering surface of glamorous boutiques, throbbing discos and shimmering girls who sell a smile and proposition foreigners, the Communist Party retains a tight grip on power, even more so than in Peking. Envoys wonder how the city can become such an economic powerhouse when the free flow of ideas is curbed.

Analysts also point out that its fate rests with the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, a former Shanghai Mayor, and a coterie of local protégés who now dominate the national leadership in Peking and closely direct developments back in their power base. A change in China's leadership could mean a shift of fortune for Shanghai, some foreign investors fear.

Shanghai and its current 13.5 million population, after all, has a turbulent political past — sometimes too capitalist, sometimes too leftist. The Communist Party was founded here in 1921 despite the Western influences of the foreign treaty port era. During the Cultural Revolution the city was the radical Gang of Four's HQ.

The Mao caps and tattered suits of the three million Mingong, or rural transient workers, contrast today with the designer clothes of the elite —



Vibrant Shanghai has taken off with a vengeance after years of neglect, revelling in its new freedom

an income gap that might fuel envy and unrest.

It is these labourers who allegedly contribute to the social problems which, as in prewar days, include the abandoning of unwanted children. Some of those end up in the city's orphanage, the centre of charges that it let children die to keep numbers within its budget.

The dissident movement, envoys say, has been crushed in Shanghai, more so even than in Peking, with former activists in labour camps, in exile, or having simply given up the struggle for rights.

"There is a huge stress on social stability," noted one diplomat. "The party is afraid of losing its grip on the population at a time of eco-

nom change. But, at the moment, Shanghai fulfils the ultimate Dengist dream — economic prosperity with total party control."

Though waitresses in cow-girl outfits serve table at one hotel restaurant, and black leather ultra-short mini-skirts were in vogue last summer, there are disconcerting reminders of recent Communist history, such as the disastrous 1958-1959 Great Leap Forward. To build the ring-road, for instance, 50,000 workers were mobilised, some arbitrarily ordered away from

foreign joint ventures. But few these days seem to think of the dissidents; they are too busy spending money in the shops of imported goods that line the city's two famous shopping streets — Nanjing Road and Huaihai Road. But the frenzy has slowed down from an initial free-spending period 18 months ago.

Though there is Bally and Prunettes, Louis Vuitton and three Italian restaurants, surprisingly, given its past, Shanghai does not yet have the feel of a cosmopolitan city. At this stage, Shanghai

could still go either way, many analysts feel. "Shanghai's know where they are going because they have been there before," said one enthusiastic recent foreign arrival involved with business. "They have a sense of what Shanghai is and what it can be."

That is true, but there is another side to the picture. "Things are flying along now, but Shanghai has known violent swings," said a longer-serving resident foreign trade official. "You never know when the political wind might change again."

Chinese vessels trigger gun battle

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

GUNBOATS of the Philippine Navy exchanged gunfire with one of two vessels flying the Chinese flag off Subic free port. There were a number of casualties on the Chinese side, said the navy, which suspects they were smugglers.

It said yesterday that the two vessels sailed into Philippine waters, 12 miles off Subic, northwest of the capital, Manila, this week. A naval craft fired warning shots and a 90-minute gun battle ensued at night. One of the Chinese ships tried to ram the naval craft but failed when it came under heavy machinegun fire from the gunboat. The two vessels then escaped.

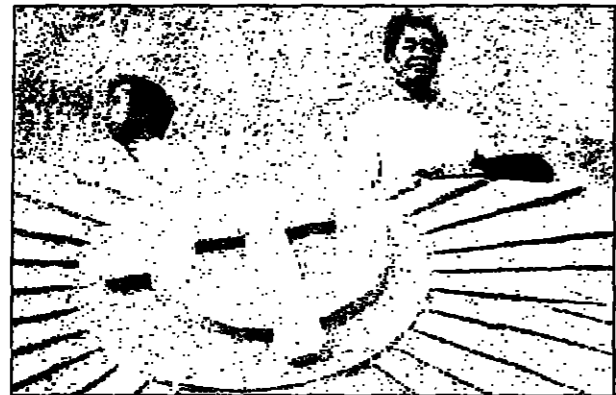
The navy said it believed that one of the Chinese vessels was "hit and incurred casualties". The gunboat was unable to pursue the vessels because its guns had jammed and it was out of fuel. None of the naval crew suffered injuries.

In a separate statement yesterday, the navy described the intruders as suspected smugglers. Chinese ships do call at Subic free port to load cargoes of duty-free cigarettes and liquor for the mainland China market.

A spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines said President Ramos had been informed of the clash, which occurred on Monday. The presidential palace has yet to respond to media inquiries.

This week's clash is the first violent incident between the two countries. Last May, Chinese vessels prevented a Philippine Navy craft carrying journalists from entering the disputed Spratlys in the South China Sea, where the Chinese Navy had secretly occupied Mischief Reef, also claimed by the Philippines.

Earlier this week, Baroness Thatcher told a business forum in Manila that China would be a more formidable military power in the near future, given the pace of its economic growth. It was prepared to use implied threats to extend its power, she added.



A symbol of leftist faith on the Bund, where former foreign banks proclaim the city's capitalist links

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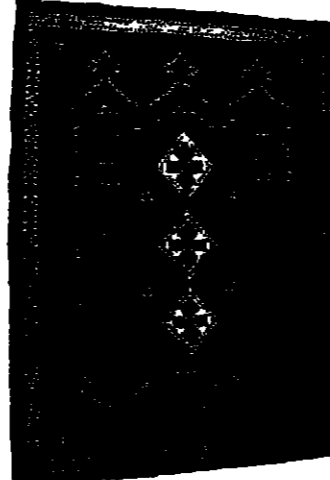
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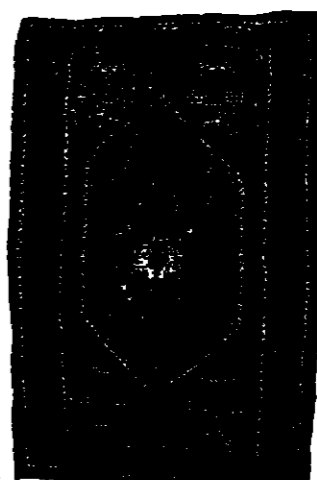


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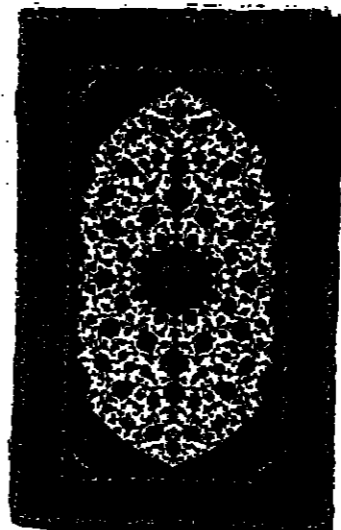
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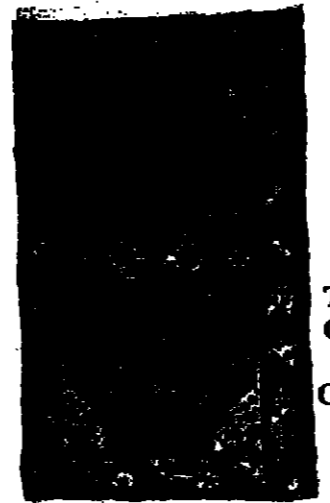
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Juppé struggles to preserve unity on EMU targets

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S bitter debate over European monetary union intensified yesterday when Philippe Séguin, Speaker of the National Assembly, called for renewed discussion on all aspects of Europe's future — and insisted that postponing a single currency would not be a disaster.

M Séguin is the latest senior French politician to voice doubts over the country's ability to meet criteria for monetary union laid down by the Maastricht treaty. The Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, has said there will be no change in the Maastricht timetable. It requires countries cut their deficits to less than 3 per cent of GDP by 1997, but even Cabinet members have questioned whether France can meet the deadline.

"Is it not time to put everything back on the table?" M Séguin said in a speech to a Franco-German conference on EMU in Aachen yesterday.

"Neither the eventual delay of the date for introducing a single currency, nor an eventual revision of the [Maastricht] criteria would have the disastrous effect that everyone fears today," he said, adding the EU inter-governmental conference in March should be the forum for reopening discussion on Europe's future.

M Séguin, who led the campaign against Maastricht during the 1992 French referendum, is widely tipped to become the next Prime Minister, should M Juppé be ousted. The Government struggled

to maintain unity in its ranks yesterday after senior Cabinet Ministers joined the chorus of French business leaders, financial analysts and politicians of various shades who fear France will be unable to meet the Maastricht criteria.

Jacques Toubon, the Justice Minister, said yesterday that the Government would achieve monetary union within the established timetable "because France's destiny is at stake".

"A great country like France does not change. When it signs treaties, it applies them," he

Premier loses pin-up status

Paris: Alain Juppé has learnt the hard way that he is no pin-up (Ben Macintyre writes). Last week officials in Bordeaux, where M Juppé is also Mayor, began hanging his portrait in schools, provoking an angry response from teachers who say they do not want the Prime Minister staring down at them.

A somewhat embarrassed M Juppé insisted that schools had not been forced to put up the picture. The Mayor's Office said in future "only the establishments that ask will be given an official portrait".

One headmaster said: "At least it makes the children laugh."

Reshuffle by Yeltsin threatens IMF loan

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

NEGOTIATIONS for a \$9 billion (\$6 billion) Russian loan from the International Monetary Fund were yesterday heading for deadlock after Western financiers threatened to withhold funds from Moscow until it renewed its commitment to economic reform.

The present round of talks was to have been the last before executive board approval at a meeting next month, but the removal from President Yeltsin's inner circle of almost all pro-Western reformers has caused jitters inside the IMF and at the State Department in Washington.

"A number of issues still need to be decided," an IMF official said. "What matters is what is agreed between the mission and the Russian authorities over progress on economic reform."

The Western stand leaves both sides in a difficult position. President Yeltsin, if he sticks to a tight fiscal policy, risks a popular backlash that may damage his chances of re-election in the summer.

For its part, Washington is unsure how much pressure should be applied to Mr Yeltsin, whose defeat in elections would almost certainly open the door to Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader.

Although there is growing disillusionment with Mr Yeltsin and his policies, he is still seen as the best alternative to the Communists.

American concern has been mounting since Mr Yeltsin



Militant miners burn banners in Moscow yesterday in protest at pay arrears

effectively dismissed Anatoli Chubais, the Deputy Prime Minister for four years and the architect of reform who supervised a vast privatisation programme.

The decision this week that Mr Chubais would be replaced by Vladimir Kladanov, an old-style Soviet industrialist, has further fuelled suspicions in Washington that the Yeltsin Government may be close to

discarding a tight monetary policy. Mr Yeltsin has insisted that turning back on reforms would be "the ruin of Russia", but has called simultaneously for a relaxation in certain policies that have left millions of state employees without pay for months.

Aside from removing the reformers from the Government and freezing the privatisation process, Mr Yeltsin has also pledged to embark on an

extravagant spending spree, including more money for pensioners and students and the payment of back wages to disgruntled workers.

Last night, Mr Yeltsin asked Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister, to pay 600 billion roubles (\$85 million) in wage arrears to miners by the end of this month. The miners had called for a nationwide strike in protest at non-payment.

Durrell's 'rogue' Cypriot is shot

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

SABRI TAHIR, a Turkish Cypriot businessman immortalised in Lawrence Durrell's *Bitter Lemons*, was critically ill in hospital last night after he was shot by a man who had offered to be his bodyguard.

When Mr Tahir, 72, said he did not need such protection, the young man pulled out a pistol and fired four bullets into his leg before escaping in a rented car, according to local press reports.

Thursday's shooting took place in the Orient Hotel, a rather seedy establishment owned by Mr Tahir and the place where his only son, Adnan, was stabbed to death in 1980 by an unknown assailant.

There was speculation among the tightly-knit Turkish Cypriot community that Mr Tahir's attacker was from the Turkish mafia, which is involved in prostitution in northern Cyprus. It was not the first time Mr Tahir has been targeted: five years ago he survived a car bomb attack.

Durrell portrayed him as a lovable "rogue" in *Bitter Lemons*, an account of his stay in Cyprus during the turbulent 1950s. A whole chapter is devoted to his masterful negotiating skills as an estate agent when he helped the author to buy a house.

It was not only Mr Tahir's stylish business acumen that endeared him to the novelist. "Sabri was a gallant man," Durrell wrote. "I once saw him dive fully clothed into Kyrenia harbour to rescue a Greek fisherman's child in difficulties."

Russian savers live in fear for their fistful of dollars

BY RICHARD BEESTON

TWO hundred years after the death of Benjamin Franklin, the American statesman's portrait is at the centre of a crisis of confidence that threatens to affect the lives of Russians from the Baltics to the Pacific.

As Washington prepares to launch its new \$100 bill, which features a harder-to-counterfeit engraving of the American Founding Father, the banknote's arrival is being anticipated with fear and loathing by millions

of Russian savers. Russia holds the largest amount of US cash outside America, estimated at up to \$20 billion (£13 billion), more than three-quarters of it in \$100 banknotes.

To allay the public's concerns and avoid panic, the US Treasury took the unprecedented step this month of opening a hotline in Moscow to explain to anxious dollar-holders that their old \$100 bills would always be honoured by the US Government.

Thomas Pickering, the US Ambassador, said at a recent press conference

to launch the information campaign: "All old US notes issued since 1861 are still valid at their full face value."

However, it is easy to sympathise with those Russians who still harbour doubts about the assurances and fear that their life-savings, usually held in \$100 banknotes hidden beneath their mattresses, will overnight be rendered worthless.

The Russian suspicions over the effects of currency changes are rooted in their own costly experience: the introduction of new rouble

notes have often led to huge losses. In 1991, when Mikhail Gorbachev's Government introduced new 50 and 100 rouble bills, and again in 1993, this time under President Yeltsin, millions of Russians lost their savings when they failed to meet the deadlines set by the Government to exchange their old notes for new.

"People are ignorant and they have been cheated so many times by their own Government that they instantly panic when new notes are issued," Vladimir Morozov, a currency dealer in Moscow, said. The atmosphere of uncertainty has not been helped by the announcement by the eight leading banks in Moscow that they will charge a 2 per cent commission for exchanging old \$100 bills.

The banks argue that they are simply covering their costs, but Aleksandr Auzan, the president of the International Confederation of Consumers' Union, estimates the Russian banks could make an easy \$40 million profit from the swap.

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Pickering launched information campaign



Durrell devoted a chapter to Tahir

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سك ان الرطل

Socialist leader makes gastronomic garrison on Rhine a mecca for lawyers, politicians and tourists

Leading lady's city triumph

SLEEK, prosperous, cosmopolitan, the ancient city of Strasbourg owes its future prosperity largely to two British cities: Edinburgh and York.

For it was in the Scottish capital in 1992 that a European summit took the long-awaited decision that meant life or death for Strasbourg: confirmation of the Alsatian border city as the sole and permanent site of the European Parliament's plenary sessions.

And it was from York that Strasbourg obtained the low-slung futuristic glass-and-steel carriages for the system that has transformed life in Strasbourg's twisting, overhung streets and leafy avenues and put the city on the world transport map: its pioneering, modern tramway.

Both, in their separate ways, attract hundreds of thousands of tourists, and the lawyers, parliamentarians and Eurocrats whose monthly pilgrimages here have largely insulated Strasbourg

STRASBOURG FILE
by MICHAEL BINYON



from France's current urban financial woes. Both are seen as crowning achievements of one of the country's most popular and influential women: Catherine Trautmann, Strasbourg's Socialist Mayor, who was, unusually, re-elected for a second term last year with an absolute majority on the first ballot.

Mme Trautmann knows that Strasbourg must now live, think and breathe Europe. The city of Albert Schweitzer, the Rhine garrison town, university seat and medieval market that is as German as it is French and has changed hands four times this century, Strasbourg has made Franco-German reconciliation a cornucopia of pros-

perity. It was chosen after the Second World War as the site for the Council of Europe, which has swelled to 39 members and under whose aegis the world's most effective guardian of Western humanitarian values functions: the European Court of Human Rights. The Council in turn brought the European Parliament here; all three bring money in abundance. Europe is now Strasbourg's profession. For one week every month the hotels are overflowing, the taxis scarce, the restaurants full and the shopkeepers smiling. In addition to the political and legal contingent, industrial leaders flock to the city that is, after Paris, France's second largest

organiser of international industrial fairs, teach-ins and conventions.

Madame le Maire, a woman with iron convictions, piercing eyes and a force of personality that remind people of a cross between Baroness Thatcher and Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, has made her name in this half-timbered city by a ruthless insistence on efficiency and planning. She has made the most of the withering of old industries by concentrating on investment in service industries, the environment and academic research institutions.

A Protestant theologian by training, she has an almost religious conviction on the need for efficient infrastructure. The tramway was her holy grail.

Sleek, green trams have now been gliding through the streets for just over a year. The single line, linking suburbs and city centre, will by the turn of the century be crossed by another.

Motorists are kept at bay by a combination of ferocious parking restrictions, road blocks reminiscent of the City of London and cheap tickets from park-and-ride centres on the periphery.

The system cost a fortune, but the trams are full. Taxi drivers complain there is less business. Town planners come from miles around to look at the comprehensive system.



Mme Trautmann, the popular and far-sighted Mayor of Strasbourg

Briton has designs on the future

BRITAIN has long been seen as the odd one out in Europe — the naysayer, the scourge of the integrationists and the awkward sceptic who refused to share the visions of the future.

It is ironic, therefore, that Britain, of all countries, has played so large a role in founding and building European institutions. Strasbourg honours Winston Churchill and Ernest Bevin, men whose postwar calls for unity encouraged the other founding fathers.

A British architect is now responsible for the physical addition to the cluster of European institutions in Strasbourg. Sir Richard Rogers designed the new Palace of Human Rights, the building that houses the Court of Human Rights. The initial designs did not please the city — "more like a prison than a court", was the verdict of the revised conception has won more universal acclaim.

The Queen visited the site and planted a tree while the building was under construction in 1992 during her first and only visit to the city. Since its inauguration in June last year, Strasbourg has grown proud of the new palace.

European construction is still in progress, however. Despite a veritable complex of Euro-institutions, a larger, grander and more futuristic building is also going up to house the European Parliament, due for completion in the next year or two. Sceptics might ask if it is needed.

"There really was no choice," Roland Ries, Strasbourg's Deputy Mayor, said. "When Brussels built an assembly chamber for the Parliament, Strasbourg had to show its commitment to the MEPs remaining here."

Making a meal out of politics

ALMOST every city in France boasts that it is the nation's culinary capital. Strasbourg seems quixotic in this insistent claim, for its famed dishes of choucroute, flammekueche, waelele and backeefle seem more German than French: mountains of pork and fat more to the taste of Chancellors in Bonn than Presidents in Paris. The boast, however, is not idle. The most famous buildings are restaurants, and politics in Strasbourg is enveloped

in accusations of good eating and gourmet lifestyles. La Maison des Tanneurs shows off the photos of Nancy Reagan dining there. Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac sat down to bolster their prickly alliance in Chez Yvonne, a local Weinstube. Indeed, France's most bizarre murder case occurred just outside Strasbourg when Jean Schilling, the President of the Association of Master Chefs, died of death when his restaurant was set alight.

Bosnian women tell of mass rapes

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ZENICA, BOSNIA

SHE shut her eyes but the girl could not block out the Bosnian Serb soldiers' laughter as they held her stick-thin wrists and raped her over and over again.

She does not remember how many times, but she remembers their laughs. The soldiers also raped her mother, later shot and killed at their home in Zepa, eastern Bosnia. The girl, 12, was also shot,

but survived and made her way to government-held Zenica in central Bosnia.

"I am sure her life is ruined," said Mirha Pojisic, a psychologist at the Medica centre, which specialises in helping women and children recover from war atrocities.

The girl's story could be one of those retold in court. Since the peace pact, war crimes investigators have stepped up collection of testimony and evidence of allegations of mass rape and the use of sexual

assault as a military policy. "This could be the first time in history that women are coming forward right after a war to talk about rape," said Jasna Bakisic-Mulic, who is secretary-general of the Sarajevo chapter of the Union of Women's Associations of Bosnia.

The Hague tribunal's opening trial, scheduled for March 18, will mark the first time that rape has been included as a war crime. A woman, identified only as "F" in court

documents, is to testify against Dusan Tadic, a Bosnian Serb prison guard accused of murdering, rape and torture. The international tribunal has indicted 52 suspects — seven Bosnian Croats and 45 Bosnian Serbs, including the military commander, General Ratko Mladic, and the political leader, Radovan Karadzic. Bosnian government officials say as many as 30,000 Muslim women may have been sexually assaulted during the 3½-year war.

Austrians to honour Jews

Vienna, Austria is to erect its first memorial to commemorate the Holocaust. Designed by Rachel Whiteread, a British sculptor, it is to be placed near a synagogue's ruins. Her sculpture, entitled "The Nameless Library", will show shelves of books with their spines turned inward. The space inside is empty to represent the many readers who could not live on. About 65,000 Jews were killed in Austria by Nazis. (Reuter)

Poles split on Oleksy successor

FROM PAT KOZA IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Kwasniewski of Poland formally accepted yesterday the resignation of Jozef Oleksy, the left-wing Prime Minister, and his Government but kept it in a caretaker role until a new one is sworn in. Taking seriously his campaign pledge to be President of the people, the former leader of the Democratic Left Alliance met heads of two opposition parties. They proposed

that Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, the former Foreign Minister, be appointed Prime Minister of an all-party government. Mr Bartoszewski is respected both at home and abroad. But his prospects are virtually nil unless the ruling left-wing coalition, comprising the Democratic Left Alliance and the Peasant Party, fails to agree on a candidate. "It is a good proposal, but it is not realistic," said Lech Walesa, the former President who ignited the crisis on

leaving office last month by making public the charge that Mr Oleksy had spied for Moscow for a decade. "In Poland, we are dealing with small interests, not the common good," he declared. Mr Oleksy resigned after the military prosecutor this week began inquiries into his alleged KGB links. Air Kwasniewski, who met coalition leaders too, also talked to the Labour Union. He has 14 days to propose a candidate to the lower house.

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Today we publish the first part of our list of destinations which includes Vienna, Prague, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Budapest and major cities in Germany, Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Portugal. Details of short-breaks in France will appear next week.

The comprehensive key with our European hotel listing gives you the per person prices which include the cost of the channel crossing and one night's accommodation.

The first price listed is the per person cost based on a car and four people travelling together; the second price is based on a car and two people, and the third price shown is the cost per person of an additional night's stay.

In many hotels you will get the sort of luxury to which it is so easy to become accustomed. In others you get the basics, so if you want to save your money for spending on other things, you could have a room large enough to share with two children under 16.

And for readers who prefer to fit, we have negotiated special flight offers through Hamilton Travel with a guarantee that, if you find the identical flight for less within 24 hours of purchase, they will match the lower fare or give you a full refund. A list of flight destinations and fares appears below and details of how to book the flight option, if required, will appear with full details next week.

Simply collect three different tokens from The Times and complete a booking form which will appear next week.

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- Reservations and enquiries should be made directly with Hamilton Travel Ltd. Details will appear next week.
- Payment is required immediately on confirming your reservation. Only when payment is received will the hotel be confirmed and the fare guaranteed.
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Holiday Inn 4* Near the Schönbrunn palace, modern, rest. bar. RO £49 £59 £33.
Hotel Kaiserhof 4* Quiet side-street location within walking distance of Opera. BB £49 £59 £35.
Hotel Tigra 4* Where Mozart stayed

Modern, swimming pool, sauna, solarium. RO £49 £59 £34 Mon-Thur supplement £30pp.
GHENT
Holiday Inn 3* Good base for exploring the city's glorious mediaeval past, modern, rest, leisure facilities. RO £59 £69 £46. Mon-Thur supplement £15pp.

BRAY
Royal Hotel 3* Seaside resort south of Dublin, pool, sauna, solarium, gym, elegant restaurant. RO £39 £49 £20.

DUBLIN
The Regency Hotel 3* Overlooking centre, main house dates back 200 years, rest, bar, elegant lounge. RO £39 £49 £20.

MILAN
Excelsior Hotel Gallia 4* Central, rest specialising in regional cuisine, health club, gym, sauna. RO £79 £89 £66 Weekends only.
Hotel City 3* Heart of shopping area, modern. RO £39 £49 £25 A supplement of £24pp applies to certain dates, call for details.
Holiday Inn 3* West of city, near centre, imposing, modern. RO £69 £79 £57.

ROME
Hotel Eden 4* Close to Spanish steps, recently restored to former glory. Forum and Colosseum can be enjoyed from panoramic restaurant. BB £39 £109 £93 Min 2 nights: free use of gym.
Hotel Piccadilly 3* Near

CZECH REPUBLIC

PRAGUE
City Hotel Moran 4* Short walk from Wenceslas square, close to river Vltava, recently renovated, friendly. BB £59 £69 £51.
Hotel Billa Labut 3* Coach and international cuisine, fitness centre, sauna. BB £59 £69 £49.

BELGIUM

ANTWERP
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza 5* Modern, central, swimming pool. RO £59 £69 £43. Mon-Thur supp £10pp.

BRUGES
Novotel Centrum 3* Overlooking a square in the centre, modern, indoor parking (payable). RO £39 £49 £19 2 + 2.
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza 3* Heart of mediaeval Bruges, underground parking (payable), swimming pool, sauna. BB £79 £89 £71.

OUDE BURG Grand Hotel 3* In the shadow of magnificent belfry, most famous monument in Bruges. Baryens bar-room a must for dessert lovers. BB £39 £49 £28.

BRUSSELS
Le Meridien Brussels 5* New, elegant, prime position in the historic heart of Brussels. RO £79 £89 £63.
Holiday Inn Brussels Airport 3*

DENMARK

COPENHAGEN
Hotel City 4* Quiet side-street, in heart of historic Copenhagen. BB £59 £69 £42.

GERMANY

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MUNICH
Holiday Inn 3* Large, modern, rest, bear cellar, leisure facilities, close centre. RO £69 £79 £57.

HUNGARY

BUDAPEST
Novotel Centrum 3* Stands in a

park of chestnut trees, rest, pizzeria, indoor pool, sauna, solarium, fitness and beauty salon, bar, bowling alleys. RO £39 £49 £27 2 + 2.
In-Side Hotel Wien 3* Central, Viennese-style cafe-rest, fitness centre, sauna. BB £59 £69 £46.
In-Side Hotel Art 3* Newly built, five minutes from city shopping. RO £49 £59 £33.

LIJEN
The three-star Holiday Inn, Liden, Netherlands from £59 per person

Colosseum, breakfast room on 8th floor with panoramic views. RO £39 £49 £23.
Holiday Inn St Peters 3* Between airport and city centre, modern, rest, piano bar. RO £69 £79 £82.

LISBON
Ibis Centre 2* On Avenue José Malhoa, well-placed for exploring. RO £39 £49 £20.
Holiday Inn 3* Central, just 5km from airport, rest. RO £49 £59 £34.
Le Meridien Lisbon 4* Central with spectacular views from one of the city's famous seven hills, international cuisine, regional specialties. RO £59 £69 £48.

GENEVA
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza 4* Close to picturesque old town, stylish, modern, indoor pool, sauna, Turkish baths. RO £59 £69 £49. Mon-Thur supplement £9pp.
Hotel Des Bergues 5* Overlooking Lake Geneva with a stunning view of French Alps, first opened in 1834, classified as an historic monument. RO £99 £109 £99.

THE TIMES EUROPEAN SHORT BREAKS TOKEN 1

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Respectives

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DISCOVER GERMAN

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OPINION

Are we turning into a nation of snoozers? Research suggests that we just want to stay in bed



DANCE

The legacy of Diaghilev, perhaps the greatest of impresarios, goes on show at the Barbican

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE

Pretty music, but superficial performances, in a new Twelfth Night in Watford



RECORDS

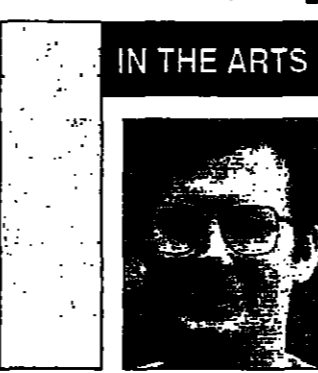
A brilliant disc from guitar virtuoso Sharon Isbin, plus other new CDs reviewed in Weekend, page 8

Tell me this. Are we sleeping too much? As a nation, I mean. It's an odd question, but it has been keeping me awake at nights. You see, this week the 1996 edition of Social Trends...

This is your wake-up call, Britain

Even so, there is clearly some discrepancy between anecdotal evidence and the cold statistical summaries of Social Trends. Perhaps we ought to call it a yawning gap.

Do you see what I am driving at? If so, you have remarkable telepathic powers. Try bending some spoons while I elucidate for other readers. When did you last attend a play, concert, opera or ballet that finished before nine in the evening?



RICHARD MORRISON

says Social Trends, spends 19 hours a week basically watching the telly, and a further one or two hours "doing nothing". Add that to the 61 hours of actual sleep, and

you have to conclude that the Average British Brain is disengaged from any semblance of activity for half of its life (if "life" is what it is deemed to be).

Er, quite. Wake us when you reach the punchline, John. On the other hand, there's the "ain't life grand before dawn" school, led by Herrick. They advise rising at about 5am, so that Nature's wonders may be sampled while the dew is still fresh on the daisy.

but out here in deepest Hendon the birds tend to say matins pretty early. Nevertheless, Herrick's approach is surely closer to what our supine country needs at present. We can't go on wasting half our lives in a state of torpor.

Genesis of a dance genius

He wasn't a dancer, and he didn't make ballets. He didn't design them, and he didn't write the music for them. Yet Serge Diaghilev is one of the giants of the dance world, his name synonymous with innovation and excitement.

Debra Craine on an exhibition about the founder of the Ballets Russes

Diaghilev's vision, the entrepreneurial drive and artistic philosophy that led him to form the Ballets Russes, arguably the most influential ballet company ever. More than 300 works, selected by the art historian Ann Kodicek, have been drawn together from public and private collections in Russia and the West...

and became part of Benois' Society for Self Improvement, a cultural talking shop for young artists and literati. It wasn't long before Diaghilev, Bakst and Benois were turning the art world on its head with their extraordinarily lavish magazine, The World of Art...



Bakst's costume design for a Bacchante in Narcisse, one of 300 works at the Barbican

GREAT BRITISH HOPES Rising stars in the arts firmament NICK GROSSO

Age: 27 Profession: Playwright Produce: Peaches, Grosso's first play was picked up by the Royal Court. The critics appreciated his snapshots of a north London lad trying to be cool with the chicks and bragging with the boys.



Close to home: Grosso grew up in north London. "All my material comes from there," he notes. He is the British offspring of Russian Jewish mother and Italian Catholic father, both architects who came here from Argentina, whither his father returned.

Perspectives ON ARCHITECTURE The Prince of Wales' imaginative vision for the millennium - read the facts in the magazine that broadens the architectural debate

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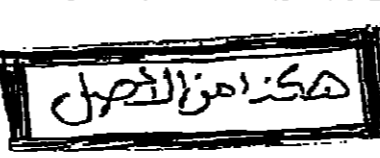
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THEATRE Love on a warm dish MUSIC, the food of love, plays a lead part in this Oxford Stage Company production. Kate Bassett writes. Feste (David Brett) underscores Shakespeare's scenes of half-confessed love...

Twelfth Night Palace, Watford are traces of sentimentality elsewhere. The cast speak verse perfectly, but the subtleties are sometimes missing, and the intensity too. Lisa Turner's husky Olivia could be more proudly chilly and put double the passionate pressure on Viola...

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Barbican Celebrity Recital Nikolai Demidenko piano Sun 11 Feb 4.00pm

MELODY FM'S VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE CLASSICS Wed 14 Feb 7.30pm

Halle Vernon Handley conducts the Halle Orchestra and pianist John Lill

INTERFACENT THE SHOW STOPPERS COLLECTION TINA TURNER Sat 20th July

Royal Festival Hall Sat 27 Jan 7.30pm The London Philharmonic

Wigmore Hall Sat 27 Jan 7.30pm

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MUSICAL

The first European staging of Kurt Weill's Broadway show, *Love Life*, is spoilt by mediocre staging



BASE NOTES

Whitney Houston meets Mickey Mouse: the singer and actress will now produce films for Disney

THE TIMES
ARTS



BASE NOTES

Sir Norman Foster is on the distinguished shortlist to design the V&A's Boilerhouse



ON MONDAY

Will Slaughter City prove to be a powerful new play for the Royal Shakespeare Company?

Rodney Milnes hails the revival of an obscure Weill musical, but not its staging

Nice songs, shame about the visuals

First, the good news. Weill and Lerner's "vaudeville in two parts" of 1948 is an astonishing piece of work. "Years ahead of its time" may be the harshest of clichés, but no other words will do. As the performance of this virtually plotless "concept" musical progressed in Leeds, title after title of Broadway shows that could scarcely have happened without its example kept springing to mind. In particular those of Sondheim — *Company*, *Follies*, even *Assassins*, which also traverses a spectrum of popular American musical forms to bind the concept together.

There are also delectable forerunners of *West Side Story*, *Cypsy* and *Cabaret*.

Now for the less good news. For once it seemed that Opera North had bitten off more than it could chew. It would be nice to argue that the company simply didn't have the money to throw at a show that needs the utmost in Broadway pizzazz, but that wouldn't be the whole truth: you can field pizzazz on no money at all. *Love Life* was misconceived visually, limply directed, and poorly choreographed.

The producer Caroline Gawn, inexperienced in the genre, did not seem to know how to end a number (many were just left hanging in mid-air) and, in a piece that is a succession of swiftly moving scenes, a drop curtain won't do — it's too slow. There were countless embarrassing hiatuses while we stared at the wretched curtain, waiting in silence for the next scene to begin. The show fell apart.

For the principals, out there on their own, nothing but praise. Margaret Prece played the ingénue wife very



Margaret Prece (foreground) in fine voice in Opera North's *Love Life*

sweetly and, even if she lacks the Ethel Merman dimension needed when the going gets nasty, made a lot of the dazzling torch song *Mr Right*. As the husband, Alan Oke managed both the sleaze of *I'm Your Man* and the near-tragedy of his lonely monologue in a hotel room. Geoffrey Dolton played the

Tickets to a new world

Benjamin Britten once expressed the wish that he wanted to write music that would be "useful, and to the living". Is music useful? Should it be?

The age-old suspicion that new music is actually written by composers entirely for themselves and their cronies was confirmed when Schoenberg, Berg and Webern worked out their own esoteric language, on the basis that what went before was totally worn out. There are those who feel that language — and perceived access to it — has never been the same since. Thanks to serialism, new music has been driven back into the cloister.

Today's music promoters are adopting more and more desperate measures to sell new music. Orchestras have variously tried highshows, video screens — even money-back offers. The Philharmonia, London Symphony and London Philharmonic have largely siphoned off new music into the occasional ghetto concert.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra, which never gives up and has devised all sorts of symposiums and education programmes in which schoolchildren demonstrate their devotion to Harrison Birtwistle by composing still more new music in celebration of his, has tried unreserved seating and single-price ticketing.

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is luring audiences to its series of "Glasgow Commissions" by twinning each new composition with a contemporary counterpart in dance, drama or visual art. The South Bank in London markets "21st century art" as a conglomerate of new music, world music and every other music in a search for a "redefinition of sound".

Meanwhile, the faithful London Sinfonia, in its indefatigable series *Explorations* 96, offers "seriously modern music": no compromises, nobody you've ever heard of, and as many as five premieres in an evening.

Never before has there been a wider range of styles on offer. And, as George Bernard Shaw foresaw in 1897, that in itself causes nothing but problems for all concerned. Jonathan Harvey is a composer who has written in more genres, inflecting his speech through the cadences of more languages than most. And that may well be the reason why an orchestra called Sinfonia 21 has appointed him as its composer-in-association for the next three years.

The orchestra's name speaks loudly of its intentions. Formed in 1989 as the Docklands Sinfonia, the band has weathered the recession rather better than its former eponymous landscape, and

The Times
invites readers
to hear — and
comment on —
the best in
new music

extra free ticket either for the same concert, or for the next one in the series.

The first concert, on February 8, offers a gentle introduction: Shostakovich, Britten and Ravel, together with the world premiere of Harvey's *Hidden Voice*. The second one, on February 27, is hardcore contemporary: Kagel, Harvey, Berio and Berio, with Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* to soothe the brow at the end. The third, on March 30, juxtaposes Beethoven and Ligeti for those who prefer a jolt.

At each concert audiences will be asked to fill in a questionnaire. Sinfonia 21 is looking for feedback and, in order to stimulate and broaden the debate, *The Times* will unravel the findings and report back.

Do you, for instance, prefer concerts that juxtapose the old with the new? Do you like a spoonful of sugar to help the medicine go down — or is this cheating? Is this the sort of new music you like? If not, what would you prefer? Does the venue matter? And the presentation? Do you like to hear a new work more than once in a concert? Do you like the conductor to talk, or do you prefer lucid programme notes or post-performance debate?

"These are pieces we believe in," Sinfonia 21 says. "Enjoy them or hate them — but let us know..."

HILARY FINCH

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First singing. Then acting. Now producing. The versatile superstar Whitney Houston has just entered into a two-year, "non-exclusive, first-look development and production agreement" with Touchstone Pictures, part of the Disney family. This will allow her to produce films and television programmes in which she may also star. Among the projects under consideration is one based on the life of the actress Dorothy Dandridge. Houston's latest film, *Waiting to Exhale*, released in Britain this week, is a box-office hit in America.

SOME of the biggest names in architecture have been invited to interviews at

Houston adds to her credits

the Victoria and Albert Museum. The museum is looking for an architect to design a new building for the Boilerhouse, adjacent to the existing museum buildings, which will provide a cultural centre for innovation and experimentation. Among those on the V&A's list are Will Alsop, Norman Foster, Michael Hopkins, Ian Ritchie and Zaha Hadid.

ONE of Britain's leading theatre companies has been saved from closure by a one-off rescue package of £150,000 from the Arts Council. The Donmar Warehouse in

Covent Garden, which is run by the leading young theatre director Sam Mendes, had been destined to close in March after a commercial sponsorship deal ended.

Most of the other Arts Council clients were told this week that they faced a standstill grant for the fourth year running. That, however, is a lot better than was expected. Smart accountancy footwork by Lord Gowrie, the Arts Council chairman, limited the potential damage of the £5 million cut in the council's

grant. Nevertheless, Gowrie still believes that "a number of important organisations are on the brink of closure".

HER duet with Boyz II Men is still at No 1 in America, her album *Daydream* remains the highest-selling non-soundtrack album in the US, and she has been nominated for six awards at the forthcoming Grammys. But one dark cloud has appeared on Mariah Carey's horizon. A Los Angeles court will soon hear an action brought by two local songwriters, ShaVon Taber and Randy Gonzales,

who claim that Carey's 1991 hit *Can't Let Go* was lifted from a song they wrote.

NEXT WEEK sees the first London workshop of a new stage version of the musical classic, *A Star is Born*, produced by Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group. Attaching a new book by American librettist Larry Gelbart (of *City of Angels* fame) to Harold Arlen's existing score, the workshop will be directed by Steven Pimlott and star the Broadway actress Judy Kuhn (*Chess*, *Les Misérables*) in the role Judy Garland made famous. The performance is not open to the public, but is intended to give the creative team a chance to decide the next step.

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Why schools are failing the future

Iain Duncan Smith on what makes a good primary school

The very public argument about where Harriet Harman is sending her child to school has raged both nationally and at Westminster this week. Yet at the same time, something else occurred which is no less important and gives us an insight into the cause of the argument, the big socialist education experiment that failed.

This week saw the publication of the test results for 7, 11 and 14-year-olds which should be required reading for any parent, would-be parent, teacher or politician. Much of the argument about the education system has been around the status and quality of education in secondary schools while beneath all of that the Cinderella of the system, primary education, has to a large extent passed people's notice. Yet as the results for 11-year-olds demonstrate, it is this area which is arguably the most important and the most in need of examination.

For it is here that some of the more ludicrous experiments took place as a result of the 1960s rethink of teaching methods. Primary school lays the foundation for all that follows. For if a child enters secondary school without a basic ability in the three Rs the rest of their education is a nightmare for them. However, I fear that once the educational establishment has studied these results from the primary schools, it will be tempted to set up study groups to tell us why they are so poor — a process which would waste time and only end up telling us what most parents know already.

The secret of a good primary school, as with any school, is the head teacher. A motivated and focused head teacher, as I have observed on many occasions, can move mountains. It is they who direct their teachers, who create the right environment through discipline and organisation and who find ways of dealing with even the most recalcitrant parents.

There is a big gap between running a primary school and teaching in one. Selection is too often a case of "dead men's shoes" compounded by politically correct criteria pushed upon them by socialist local education authorities. One school I know, which exists in the most difficult circumstances and in the shadow of a housing estate, illustrated this perfectly for me. The parents who send their children here are not middle-class, many are themselves failures of the system. The head teacher realised that standards relied to a great extent on the parents' involvement at home. Yet the parents were scared of exposing their shortcomings to their children or to the teachers, and their children often returned to school with incomplete homework. This particular head teacher brought the parents into the school, reminded them of the importance of their involvement, but — most im-

portantly — he started teaching them what their children were learning. The improvement quickly began to show.

However, even such motivated and focused head teachers face an uphill struggle when confronted by some teaching methods. For example, many teachers are now questioning the project-based method which has children sitting for so much of their day around group tables. Furthermore, some schools even had open-plan classrooms. Just imagine how little the children learnt with so many distractions — yet I remember the educationists talking nonsense about the need for such classrooms.

Young children are like dry sponges: their whole day is an exercise in absorbing information. Successful schools are the ones that focus on learning in a disciplined and structured environment. I have in mind one reception-class teacher who is remarkably strict. She warns the parents from the outset of their obligations and imparts to both parents and children the importance of time-keeping and orderly behaviour. The result is that children taught by her go on to the next year well fitted for the process of learning. The old primary school system at least had this at its core before the Sixties experiments began and we would do well to look to it again to rectify so many of them.

The good schools have also returned to uniforms, thus helping to break peer-group pressure in the playground and instilling a sense of esprit de corps among pupils, staff and parents. The guiding themes which seem to exist among good schools are those of structure and discipline. They re-emphasise the core values. One primary school I know has even decided to teach Latin again to improve understanding of English.

While this Government has started to change the system for the better, these test results show we have a great deal more to do. We knew when we arrived in Government that the system was already failing as a result of the ideological nonsense that had been rammed down teachers' throats by the education establishment and the Labour Party through the comprehensive system. So many politically motivated local authorities continued with these ideologies and if criticism is due, it is that we should have tackled them faster.

The object, therefore, must now be to press ahead with the reforms and we should introduce league tables for primary schools to identify the successful ones. This will help us to challenge and reverse all those remaining facets of the socialist experiment that failed. Only by doing this will we ensure that future test results do justice to our children.

The author is Conservative MP for Chingford. Two of his children attend a state primary school.

A motivated and focused head teacher can move mountains

Of course Hattie Harman is a hypocrite. But the non-political classes (95.2 per cent of the population) are now thoroughly bored with the uproar about which school she and her husband (and son) select for the boy. Our attention span for such party games is as short as the time it takes to sink a pint of Old Petyfogger's Peculiar in the snug bar. And anyhow, the real row is not about hypocrisy at all.

The row is actually only another final shoot-out between new Labour and old Labour in the civil war for the soul of her party, enjoyable for bystanders, though not for Ms Harman. Of course she has made the right choice in putting the education for her son above the last shibboleth of her party to test political purity. And of course saloon-bar pundits — and their representatives, backbenchers of all parties — are raging with righteous indignation and guffawing with Schadenfreude. But of course Hattie is a hypocrite, and of course she is right.

We English are famous through-

out the world for our hypocrisy about schools — and everything else. Why else would we call our exclusive fee-paying private schools "public"? Why else would we send our children straight from sucking milk-bottles away to boarding-schools "for their own good", and "It never did me any harm [Sez who, Dad?]? All other nations get rid of their children in this way only when ordered to do so by a judge. The hardest part of learning English is neither the grammar nor the pronunciation, but the subtlety of hypocrisy. This is the language in which "With the greatest respect..." is academic hypocrisy for "I have no respect for your opinion at all, and am about (metaphorically) to break the top off a bottle and (literally) deconstruct you".

If we are to survive in hypocriso-speak, from an early age we learn the English skill of conveying our meaning in reports and references, without spelling it out. "I have never experienced a secretary like Jim." "Major Blood will be greatly missed by our more adventurous science

PHILIP HOWARD



The English are famed for hypocrisy. And a good thing, too

specialists. "We don't know how we'll ever replace her (mainly because we haven't quite worked out what she did)."

Tony Baldry, our Fisheries Minister, was using postgraduate hypocrisy when he told *Fishing News* and *The World at One* that British waters out to the 12-mile limit are "not negotiable". Fishing rights

right up to the shoreline were handed over to the EU under Regulation 2141/70, so they are "not negotiable" after 2002 only because there is nothing left to negotiate. This was breathtaking ministerial hypocrisy: literal truth masking utter deception.

Burns Night in this, the poet's 200th anniversary year, has been celebrated with a spate of haggis, whisky and hypocrisy. The thirstiest drunkard in the parish praised his wit. Wee Free ministers of religion admired his temperance, the biggest lechers in Rotary droned on about his romanticism, and the most terrifying trout acted as antidotes to desire and oxy-morons as respondents on behalf of the bonny lassies. John Major suggested that Burns would have voted Conservative against more taxes. But as an exciseman, Burns might well have been in favour of more excise duties. Burns, like any great artist, was a mass of contradictions, the follower of no party line. The only thing that matters is that he wrote the truest (and funniest) love lyrics.

English hypocrisy grows out of our puritanical and passionate history. In the Greek theatre — where the word started, like irony, agony, and many others — the hypocrite was a bit-player who "answered" the protagonist. His original sin was merely that he answered back.

The Authorised Version, with Christ's denunciations of scribes, Pharisees and hypocrites, gave hypocrisy a bad name — although the advice about doing your good deeds in private rather than in the corners of the streets like hypocrites is sound, and should be heeded by self-publicising hustlers and ageing pop stars at charity concerts.

But decent hypocrisy is essential to civilised society. When sent an unsolicited typescript of a 1,000-page novel with a request for your honest opinion, the truth is always: "I would pay £10 if you promised never to inflict such rubbish on me again." It is kinder to be a hypocrite (and plagiarist): "I shall waste no time in reading your novel."

A millennium fit for a Prince

The Prince of Wales is calling for spiritual renewal in the year 2000, but there is no shortage of visions

The Prince of Wales wrote this week that the end of the millennium should be a time of spiritual renewal, not a materialist binge. He called for reflection rather than a "glam but essentially meaningless party". Here was a chance, he said, to restore the "enduring cultural priorities which represent a moral foundation in a world dominated by consumerism". The Prince's abstract nouns are nowadays converted into tabloid prose at phenomenal speed. Those sent to search his rhetorical haystack for needles of meaning are forbidden to return without a story. As a result, they grasp at a talking plant, a Hindu temple or a sustainable-resource-activity-centre and leave it at that. Small wonder that Thursday's papers were confused by the Prince's

hellfire and damnation. Nothing happened. Etheled was on the English Throne, still unready and leying Danegeld, Erikson the Viking landed in North America but did not realise it. The 20-year-old Otto III dreamt of reviving the glory of Imperial Rome, but failed. The Toltec prince Topiltzin founded the kingdom of Chichen Itza. There were millennial achievements, such as the Bridge of Ten Thousand Ages in Fochow, the church of San Pietro in Perugia and the first novel, *The Tale of Genji*, in Japan. In India a mathematician named Sridhara discovered the number zero. Few knew it was AD 1000, so few felt any anti-max afterwards.

In my experience, a vision is a commodity nobody claims to have but demands to be "offered", usually so as to reject it as *insufficiently Utopian*. In American politics, so obscure is the concept that it has been expanded into "the vision thing", adding nothing in the process. Many pleas for millennial visions suffer from the same ailment. In American politics, so obscure is the concept that it has been expanded into "the vision thing", adding nothing in the process. Many pleas for millennial visions suffer from the same ailment.

Simon Jenkins

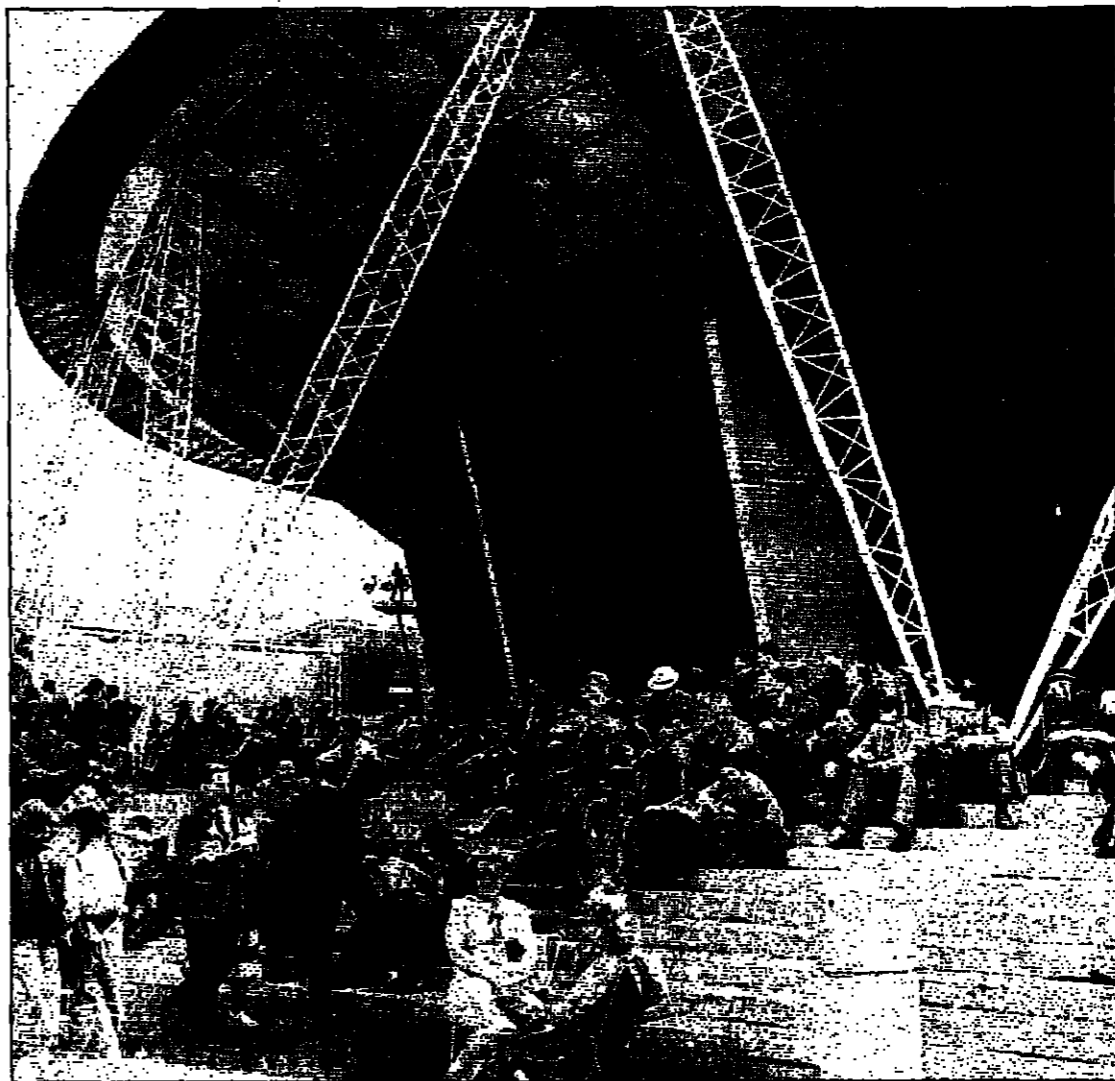
The heir to the Throne is a splendid paragonical Midas. All he touches turns to sermon. Everyone involved in the millennium preparations has faced the same question as the Prince: what is the vision? We know that the calendar is based on the birth of Christ, though it appears to be five years adrift. We mark anniversaries and birthdays as temporal milestones. But these are no more than the tick of a clock or the chime of a bell. Centuries are astronomically insignificant. The first day of the new millennium will be no different from the last of the old. The date is hallowed by tradition, but nothing else. Who needs vision? Why the fuss?

The answer is that on the night of December 31, 1999 (or for purists, a year later), a great fuss there will be. Lottery players will have donated more than a billion pounds to making that fuss. Everyone will, for some atavistic reason, feel something at the turn of the millennium. Even the cynic who has a drink and goes to bed early will do so deliberately. I believe the so-called "vision dilemma" is really a deep uncertainty, not over whether to feel something on the night, but over what ought to be felt. Some people fear they are being hoodwinked by astrological superstition, or succumbing to medieval millenarianism, which forecast dozens of cataclysmic dates. In AD 1000 there was plenty of vision, mostly of

what philosophers call eschatological fantasy, defined by Roger Scruton as "the promise of an eventual release from earthly miseries by an enduring security, preferably without political institutions".

The great eschatological novel *The Man Without Qualities* by Robert Musil, written at the start of this century, has its hero Ulrich lost and searching for moral certainty amid technological and social revolution. The search draws him, not unlike the Prince of Wales, into a web of schemes for celebrating the Austro-Hungarian Jubilee. A more primitive, and perhaps relevant, example is the Polynesian cargo cult, a belief that a day is at hand when outsiders will arrive to shower gifts on worshippers. The Prince suggests that the millennium should be the occasion for a cosmic new year's resolution. Many of us might sympathise. But what does this mean? Insofar as it can be pinned down, the proposal is emphatically not that portrayed by Musil's jubilee commissioners. It is not "the tumult and the shouting", "the Captains and the Kings" of *Kipling's Reckless*, but "An humble and a contrite heart... Lest we forget, lest we forget."

The Prince wants the millennium to eschew materialism, to be something that "originates in our hearts and not our heads", since it is the "intuitive powers of the heart that lie



Overshadowed by the future: visitors to the 1951 Festival of Britain beneath the Dome of Discovery

at the root of all spiritual experience". Yet no sooner does the Prince enunciate his aversion to materialism than he asks for material.

He wants the Millennium Commission (in which I declare an interest as a member of it) to give grants to his favoured causes. He may want a spiritual hermitage, but it is not that of Francis of Assisi, more that of Catherine the Great or the Hindu temple at Neasden. He wants millennium money to go to church, chapel, mosque and temple, and to architectural, environmental and urban renewal projects.

The irony is that whenever the Prince gives substance to his vision, it is precisely the remit which the Millennium Commission has given itself. Running down the list of proposals we find a Scottish forest, a national cycleway network, an architecture centre in Manchester, an ecology park in Doncaster, the renewal of Bankside power station, parks, community halls and coastal paths without number. The commission is currently the embodiment of the Prince's oft-stated plea that new public investment should correct the

environmental ravages of the past and nudge the nation towards what he would call a sustainable future.

There is a material cost to this, perhaps even a "materialism" cost, if that is how the Prince sees the lottery. But spirituality comes free of charge. Bricks and mortar cost money and money must be paid for. The Prince cites churches and cathedrals, which are already receiving lottery money. But there are other "cathedrals" in Britain, embodiments of beauty and tradition if not of Christian faith. These are the museums, galleries, theatres and stadiums, the parks and gardens, the towns, villages, forests and wildernesses to which the public flocks in its spare time and which are already the object of millennium support. In each of these there is a wealth of vision, if anyone would care to ask those committed to them.

The setting up of the Millennium Commission was one of the more eccentric acts of government, as was giving it one fifth of the proceeds of the National Lottery (an estimated £1.6 billion). This was a statist ostentation rather out of character with John Major's Cabinet. As if aware of this, the Cabinet then backtracked. The commission was

forbidden to initiate projects or stimulate grant applications. It could only publish criteria on which projects would be judged. The emphasis on environmental renewal, culture and science closely accords with the Prince's known views.

In other words, the money might be public but the visions were to be many and private. The commission was to be reactive. This approach to the millennium was communitarian, non-elitist and "bottom-up". It delegated vision to the public and the bias of support reflects the public's response.

To an intellectual grandee this might seem a pity. A dose of directional elitism is useful in getting public projects built in just four years (and may yet be needed). But I am not sure the strategy was wrong. As the Prince's effort shows, a great national vision to mark the turn of the clock is a chimera. If there is to be a millennial rebirth, it will come not from princes or governments or commissions, but from within individuals and their communities. I prefer Kipling's pluralism: "There are nine and sixty ways of constructing tribal lays/ And every single one of them is right."

Idol moment

THE THRILL of being selected to fight Harragate for the Tories may be eclipsed by an even more exciting date in Norman Lamont's diary. After more than 20 years of worship he is to sit down at the same luncheon table as his idol — Lawrie McMenemy, the man he reveres as the most successful manager in the history of Grimsby Town Football Club.

McMenemy, known to his footballing friends as "the big fella", is now director of football at

Southampton FC and was manager of Lamont's beloved "Mariners" in the early 1970s when he took them to the heady heights of Fourth Division champions. This transpires to have been an event as important in the former Chancellor's life as Black Wednesday. He bumped into McMenemy, a jolly giant of a man with a good line in after-dinner jokes, at a recent party thrown by Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and wasn't too starry-eyed to arrange lunch.

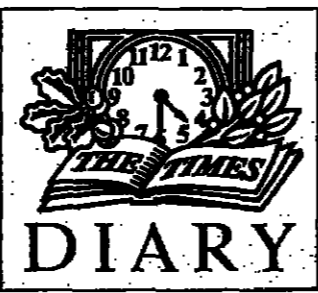
"He's always been the greatest hero of mine, a very successful manager of Grimsby who I have supported since I lived there," says Lamont. "I'm a great admirer of football managers. They have something in common with Chancellors in the flask they get."

Lamont's loyalty, in respect of Grimsby Town, should not be doubted. One Christmas, during his Chancellorship, fans were amused to spot him wrapped up in a team scarf and cap, queuing at the turnstiles with his son. The club chairman, witnessing this scene, took pity and brought him in from the cold for a winter warmer in the directors' box.

Some of our political dinosaurs are already extinct in the minds of



McMenemy: local hero



the young. The new, very green, puppet co-ordinator on Spitting Image was sent to collect the latest version of Arthur Scargill from a storeroom. "What does he look like?" she asked. The producer, Giles Pilbrow, told her: "You can't miss him, he's an old, balding, left-wing Labour politician with a grubby grey suit." She returned with Neil Kinnock.

Robbed

THE bargain of all Burns Night suppers was enjoyed by students at The Globe public house in Dundee on Thursday. The publican, Jack Cooper, was offering a square deal of haggis, tatties, neeps and "a drink of your choice" for £2 a head. Then law students spotted a bottle of the exclusive Louis Treize brandy, Churchill's favourite breakfast tipple, on the gantry and demanded the fine cognac, worth £25 a

glass, as their chosen drink. "I'd forgotten all about that bottle," wails Cooper. "I couldn't believe it when they asked for it but they started going on about the Trade Descriptions Act. I needed a measure myself to steady my nerves."

As Tory chiefs continue to agonise over the risk of further defections, they should reassure themselves that a good dinner heals all. Among the most prominent guests at the 25th anniversary dinner on Wednesday night of the founding of Nick's Night — the dining club for Tory wets to which Sir Nicholas Scott gave his name — was Sir Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, the notorious defector to the SDP in the early Eighties. Perhaps



Emma Nicholson and Alan Howard will be back at the Tory trough ten years from now.

Hot favourite

THEY'VE found an ingenious method of warming up jockeys during the freezes at Newbury racecourse — a mechanical horse is being installed in the changing room. The contraption, known as a "side away", aims to get cold muscles warmed up for the first race. "All other athletes warm up and it does seem strange that we have not seen a mechanical horse at a racecourse before," says Michael Turner, the Jockey Club's chief medical officer. "I have often heard jockeys say that they are just getting warmed up by the second race — hopefully this will be a thing of the past now."

Change of step

THE Princess of Wales's daily battle with photographers and admirers at the Harbour Club in Chelsea may finally have driven her to look for somewhere else to tone her thighs. Earlier this week she was spotted snuffing around a rival establishment, Holmes Place Health Club, in Ealing. In the past the Harbour Club proved fertile ground for the Princess to meet members of the opp-

osite sex. It is where she enjoyed post-workout fruit juices with Will Carling and Christopher Whalley, the property developer.

Staff at Holmes Place, perhaps underwhelmed by the prospect of a camp of freelance photographers setting up outside, were reluctant to discuss the Princess yesterday.

Straight Man

OFFSTAGE alarm on the Isle of Man at plans for the first production of a play by Joe Orton. Although the Marx Parliament relaxed its stiff laws on homosexuality four years ago, many citizens are still horrified at any mention of the subject. The proposal by the Joe Orton Society to present *Entertaining Mr Sloane* has not gone down well. "I think an Orton play would be received very badly here," says the Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Right Rev Noel Jones. Risky theatre has not had a happy history on the island. Ten years ago the High Bailiff banned *Steaming*, a play for an all-female cast by Neil Dunn set inside a Turkish bath.

X-rated

LADY COGGAN, the doughty wife of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Coggan, is prompting some furious soul-



Coggan: fighting spirit

searching among residents of Winchester over plans to retain three stone crosses on a cinema being converted from a disused church. The diet of 18-rated films planned for the picture house are deemed unsuitable. "Christians hold the cross in deep reverence and we shall be very sad to see it used falsely in our splendid city with all its church history and background," says Lady Coggan. The dispute looks set to get bitter. The church is Grade II listed and English Heritage sides with the cinema company.

P.H.S



HILLARY AND CHERIE

Labour lessons from the Washington jury room

Americans were treated last night to the shocking spectacle of a First Lady subpoenaed to give evidence before her peers. This was not the Republican-dominated Senate Whitewater committee but a grand jury, the beginning of a criminal procedure. Although the jurors are more likely than not to have Democrat sympathies, that may not comfort Mrs Clinton very much. Whatever evidence is presented against the woman once dubbed "Saint Hillary", her unprecedented position in the dock cannot be separated from her anomalous position in the White House. The repercussions do not stop on the Atlantic's far shores.

When Mrs Clinton — a highly successful lawyer and, by repute, cleverer than her husband — first started to campaign nationally at his side, she seemed to many younger American women as a perfect role model. This First Lady would be allowed to do more than smile at the cameras, show off her floral arrangements or work on personal issues behind the scenes. This was to be a working partnership — "buy one, get one free" in her husband's words. Some Americans voting for Bill Clinton did so at least as much on Hillary's behalf.

He was true to his word, even if he had to tone down the partnership message in the course of the campaign. Hillary was given one of America's knottiest problems to unravel: the provision of healthcare. While feminists cheered, more cautious souls foresaw the perils. A wife cannot be sacked; and even if she decides to "spend more time with her family", that puts no more distance between her and the levers of power.

Mrs Clinton's attempt to emulate her heroine, Eleanor Roosevelt, were disastrous. The healthcare plan, conceived in secret, was quickly revealed as unworkable. Then began another of Hillary's regular reinventions: as mother, ambassador and "First Lady of Hearts". That was soon supplanted by more revelations about old Arkansas business deals, alleged cover-ups and favouring of cronies for White House contracts, which led finally to yesterday's

grand jury appearance. Mrs Clinton's hypocrisy has contributed solidly to her fate. She and her husband campaigned against the excess profit culture of the Eighties yet unaccountably managed to convert \$1,000 to \$100,000 in the space of nine months. They campaigned against sleaze: yet she had worked for a savings and loan institution involved in disreputable property deals and may have been less than frank about exactly how much work she did. They claimed to stand up for those who worked hard and played by the rules, yet she sacked seven well-regarded members of the White House travel office and replaced them with friends and relations.

But the hostility towards her has been compounded by the unease which many Americans feel about a First Lady being both a career woman and a political adviser to her husband. This is what most alarm Cherie Blair. If Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister, Britain will experience the same step-change that took place in Washington. Out will go the wife who loves charity and opera; in will come a former parliamentary candidate, campaigner for equal rights and successful lawyer. The parallels should make anyone wary.

Of course Mrs Blair — or Ms Booth as she likes to be known — has been found guilty neither of hypocrisy nor sleaze. And in Britain's parliamentary system, it would be hard for her husband to give her as much political power as Mr Clinton gave his wife. Nor does she seem to want it. But potential pitfalls abound. Under the "cab-rank" principle which governs barristers' briefs, there would be occasions when even her legal practice provided embarrassments.

The world has changed, and Britain will have to come to terms with Prime Ministers' wives having careers. But, as the first of her kind, Ms Booth would come under great pressure and be subject to criticism however much or little she says. This is unfortunate but probably unavoidable. Ms Booth may be asked to blaze a trail for her successors — and through prickly branches.

PRIMARY POWER

Tests and vouchers should improve standards

The state of our schools has been thrown into sharper relief after a week which can leave few feeling complacent. The electorate has been left with an enduring impression of Labour's incoherence; but there is little room for Tory satisfaction when 16 years of reform still leaves half of our 11-year-olds unable to reach the required standard in English and maths. The failure rests not with our children but with methods of managing schools and teaching pupils that need, not stability, but still more radical change.

Parents nostalgic for traditional practice, and teachers stretched by innovation, might yearn for a period of consolidation. That would be an abdication of responsibility towards the children whom the system fails.

Were it not for one bitterly contested change, the tests themselves, we would still be ignorant of how poorly served pupils are. The self-interest of the teachers who opposed the tests does not make it easy to sympathise with the profession; but because many were wrong in the past that does not mean they are all in error now. Their suggestions for refining the examinations deserve attention if a successful innovation is to become entrenched. Tests not only diagnose failure, they can help to remedy it. Improved results in the longer-established tests for seven and 14-year-olds proves what any honest teacher has to admit: examinations concentrate minds and scrutiny improves standards.

That insight should inform the next step Gillian Shephard must take. She should ignore the bleatings of head teachers and publish primary league tables. John Redwood has well argued how that would make it easier to judge all schools fairly. Gauging the quality of a school intakes and measuring any subsequent change could allow

parents to see what improves performance at each stage. Best practice would be better identified and emulated.

What constitutes best practice may still be a battleground. But it seems unlikely that the evidence will give comfort to the progressive theorists whose spirit still stalks our university and college departments of education. Harriet Harman and Tony Blair have demonstrated what every good parent knows. A school which teaches traditionally, puts pupils in uniform and has ordered classes, whatever their size, is the best guarantee of a good education.

The other guarantee is an early start. *Counting to Five*, a report published yesterday by the Audit Commission, argues that nursery education can radically improve children's performance at school. Unfortunately, with nursery provision so patchy, access to this advantage is, according to the Audit Commission, almost a lottery.

The most effective way of ensuring that new provision emerges and existing nurseries are kept effective is to empower parents. The Government's nursery voucher scheme will make it easier for demand to be satisfied in areas where local authorities have abdicated their responsibilities. It will also encourage the competition which drives down costs and raises standards.

To invest in pupils, not the system, is to encourage diversity and excellence in pre-school education. That is a lesson too important to be restricted to the nursery. If standards are to be driven upwards, the engine of change has to be informed parental choice. Ministers should hasten to give parents, through tests and vouchers, as much power as possible now: a future government could reverse the revolution.

GREY POLAR BEARS

Forget the sunbelt: find a bracing old age in Essex

The Essex coast, it seems, is scheduled to become the new Florida. As our health correspondent reports on page 8, the United Kingdom's first retirement laager for veterans of the Third Age is to be built there. Like similar "sun cities" in Florida and South Africa, it is to be exclusively for those struck as grey panthers by estate agents' euphemism.

So it will have hundreds of "close-care apartments", a large nursing home, a 70-bed hospital, shops and services of all sorts, and a "therapeutic golf course for the mature golfer". Electric rakes by the bunkers? Shrimping-nets to retrieve balls? Inhabitants need never leave Thorpe Hall again on two feet. And if they were to venture into the world outside, the nearest town for all ages is Frinton-on-Sea, which bans fish-and-chip shops and may be rather less lively than this new "lifetime care" complex at Thorpe le Soken.

Whether the Utopian idea of happy-valley ghettos will catch on in Britain is going to be tested. As many 80-year-old Britons as Americans may feel like 20-year-olds. But the British grey wolves may prefer to have some 20-year-olds around. To judge from cruises and blue-rinse bus tours, the British in their maturity are less team-players than Americans. Although, sadly, increasing numbers of our old are increasingly shut

away out of sight, out of mind, in nursing homes, the British ideal is still to try to keep the seven ages of man together, to take in the other ages' baby-sitting, spectacle-searching and changing of the video.

And the choice of Essex for Britain's first sun city may be surprising to some. The weathermen may calculate that East Anglia receives more than the national average of sunshine under its Constable skies. But all East Coast resorts face facts as well as the North Sea. Some even advertise themselves as "bracing", with pictures of ruddy fishermen in oilskins and sou'westers. As a poet once advised outsiders, "the bleak flat, sedgy shores of Essex sun. Where fog perpetual veils the winter sun". Unkind, and only partially true.

Thorpe le Soken does not have the blue seas and cloudless skies of Cloud-Cuckoo-Land. But Florida sun causes wrinkles, and worse: those who would not be called wrinkles, beware. Essex weather refreshes the juices better than withering sun. From Dickens to Graham Swift, from Essex thatches and flint towers to the roaring North Sea shingle, Essex men and women have a reputation for longevity and red-faced stubbornness. The county is a fine choice for our first sun city. But as a precaution, the residents should take their thermal leg-warmers.

Failure to tackle global warming

From Dr R. Russell Jones

Sir, The findings of the British Antarctic Survey (report, January 25), that over half the Antarctic ice sheets have disintegrated during the past 50 years, provides further evidence of global warming and verifies the computer models which match current temperature trends precisely and predict far greater changes in the next century.

Worldwide, 1995 was the hottest year on record. Yet society's response to these events is curiously ambivalent. Water companies claim that severe droughts are freak occurrences which are only expected to occur once every 300 years. In fact they will be coming increasingly common. The UK Government argues unsuccessfully for a 10 per cent reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, whilst failing to admit that a reduction of over 60 per cent is needed just to stabilise atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide.

In Coventry (reports, January 18; letter, January 24) the Church celebrates 100 years of the motor car, the fastest-growing contributor to global warming, and possibly the single greatest threat to God's creation.

The ecosystems which sustain life are extremely vulnerable, and our priorities will need to change radically if they are to survive.

Yours faithfully,
R. RUSSELL JONES,
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1,
January 25.

Monetary union

From Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, The Spanish Foreign Minister, Carlos Westendorp, who was chairman of the Reflection Group which prepared the way for this year's inter-governmental conference (IGC), has said that it would be ill-advised to proceed with the 1999 timetable for economic and monetary union (report, January 24). If the timetable does have to be revised then that will require amending the Maastricht treaty (as will the change of name from ecu to euro and any changes to the ERM).

It is therefore important that we include the whole question of economic and monetary union in the forthcoming White Paper on the IGC (report, January 24). It would be extraordinary if we did not declare the principles behind our opt-out on the single currency, given the fact that the purpose of the single currency is to create political union — an objective the Prime Minister has already rejected.

Señor Westendorp said last year that every aspect of the Community can be renegotiated at the IGC. In addition to the single currency, agriculture, fisheries, the budget and the European Court should head the agenda and therefore also be addressed in the White Paper.

Our present problems stem from the fact that at Maastricht we allowed the other member states to go ahead with a legal framework which we agreed we would not veto. We must not make the same mistake again. The White Paper must provide the basis for a serious debate on this country's national interests and how they can best be served. Without this and without a proper renegotiation of Maastricht we will be left with uncertainty and instability, which will be in nobody's interests.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM CASH (Chairman),
The European Foundation,
61 Pall Mall, SW1.

Living languages

From Mr Norman Berdichevsky

Sir, Your editorial, "Silent thunder" (January 17), contrasts Esperanto — "without a people to sustain it... the property of a few" — with the proud struggle of the Welsh people to preserve their language.

The latest census study in 1991 reports that almost 550,000 people are able either to speak, read or write Welsh (A *Geography of the Welsh Language 1961-1991*, J. Aitchison and H. Carter, University of Wales Press, 1994).

This accounts for the fact that Welsh does not appear in the lists of the principal languages of the world published every year in *The World Almanac and Book of Facts* (Scribner's). This same reference work has consistently listed Esperanto and recently upped its estimate of users from one to two million.

The failure to acknowledge Esperanto as a living language is particularly glaring in the English-speaking world precisely because English has, as you put it, "helped to sweep so many other languages out of the way".

Esperanto is a non-ethnic and non-territorial language, and therefore not very visible, but it is sustained by an international community of speakers who have diffused it throughout the world over 100 years. Esperanto is alive and growing, especially in China, Japan and Korea, which may account for the myopic view frequently expressed in Britain that it has "failed".

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN BERDICHEVSKY,
69 Methuen Road,
Edgware, Middlesex,
January 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Understanding forgiveness, and trying to practise it

From Canon Paul Oestreich

Sir, Does Matthew Parris article, January 22 really want to know "how on earth" to practise forgiveness? There are more than enough examples. Nor do Christians have any monopoly. Like others, they often fail to practise what they preach.

Forgiveness is the banishing of bitterness for wrongs suffered and the refusal to pay back evil with evil. It has nothing to do with the banishing of memory. "Forgive and forget" is no Christian slogan. "Remember and forgive" is.

For Christians, Jesus sets the pattern in praying for his own executioners: "Father forgive them...". This was the response of Gordon Wilson when IRA killers murdered his daughter. This was the response of Dr Sheila Cassidy to her Chilean torturers. Forgiveness, offered and sought, in small things and great, is the love-bond that holds marriages together. Forgiveness does not condone evil, but refuses to be embittered by it. It breaks the vicious circle of hate.

The "hurt" file is indeed "not open for edit", but the victim's bloodstream need not be poisoned by it. The recognition of our need to forgive was, this week, at the heart of the prayer of 13-year-old Unity Lawrence (report, January 23) at the memorial service for her murdered father: "May we find the strength to overcome anger with love." Hard, yes, but possible and liberating.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL OESTREICH,
Director of International Ministry,
Coventry Cathedral,
7 Priory Row,
Coventry, West Midlands,
January 25.

From Mr Richard Ritchie

Sir, In his strictures upon the Christian concept of forgiveness Matthew Parris is coming perilously close to

that mortal sin of columnists, which is to parade their ignorance — or, as he describes it "guesswork" — in order to indulge their prejudices.

In fact, Christian forgiveness is not difficult to understand. It means that, however much someone has wronged you and however much you may wish never to see him again, you still pray for his soul. It is not for us to consign anyone to Hell.

That does not mean you have to like everyone, invite them to supper, or even not punish them when necessary; simply "to pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death". Often not easy; but reasonably straightforward.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RITCHIE,
36 Daull Road,
Wandsworth, SW18,
January 22.

From Mr Peter Robinson

Sir, I heard recently of a little girl who had had to have both legs amputated. When asked by the surgeon whether she could forgive him, the girl nodded.

Matthew Parris's article made no reference to anyone's need for forgiveness. He has sought to illustrate the defects of Christianity. Perhaps all he has done is to highlight the poverty of his own emotional and spiritual life.

Yours sincerely,
PETER ROBINSON,
Vallecho, Fir Tree Close,
Coppenhall, Staffordshire,
January 23.

From Mr Harry Creswell

Sir, Matthew Parris is quite correct when he implies that the act of forgiveness is something very difficult to achieve. Only God has the power and grace to release us from our sins.

However, when he hurt or offend others we can either "make up" (forgive) or bear resentment, holding on to the slight against us. The former is

more likely to lead to peace and happiness for both parties. Is not this, therefore, the better and more gracious course of action and is this not what is meant by forgiving one another? For, unless we do, I believe that God cannot forgive us.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY CRESWELL,
Warren Wood,
Wimland Road, Faygate, Sussex,
January 23.

From Mr Richard Gunning

Sir, Christians are not required to like their enemies, nor to forgive wrongs done. No person is that perfect, or stupid. Christians are, though, expected to refrain from retaliation, seek reconciliation (where allowed) and not keep score.

Of course, all Christians fall short of these ideals, for which they need ongoing forgiveness. Mr Parris may also be forgiven for getting it wrong.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GUNNING,
38 Spensdale Gardens,
Wallington, Surrey,
January 24.

From Mr Nigel Draper

Sir, Matthew Parris says his attitude is "let bygones be bygones" and yet he finishes by telling of his reluctance to make contact with a neglected friend because of a "small but signal hurt" from a few decades ago. What a difference to the Gospel of Jesus who says "I stand at the door and knock" (Revelation iii 20), and waits for you Matthew — no reluctance on his part even though you continually hurt him. That is forgiveness.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL DRAPER,
Flat 3, San Remo Mansions,
San Remo Parade,
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex,
January 23.

Union stakes in new Labour society

From Mr Robert Harvey

Sir, John Monks ("The TUC's stake in Mr Blair", January 17) is looking forward to a Tony Blair government which will help to rebuild the unions' influence, in order to "make this country more competitive, community-minded and caring".

These are presumably the same unions whose "competitiveness" nearly bled the printing industry to death ten years ago (having already succeeded in doing so with the car industry), and whose "community spirit" and "caring" nature in the 1970s left the dead buried and the lights flickering for only three days a week.

Of course, I'm forgetting, that was a long time ago, and they've completely changed. Frankly, I agree with Gillian Shephard, whom you quote on the same day, that the only thing to have changed would be the substitution of smoked salmon and dry white wine for beer and sandwiches at No 10.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HARVEY,
Forest House, Birmingham Road,
Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire,
January 17.

From Professor Roger Dyson

Sir, The answer to the questions raised on your letters page (January 5, 11, 13, 17) as to the meaning of Tony Blair's "stakeholder society" is, in my view, factual and quite straightforward.

John Prescott has pledged to make

the dismissal of workers during industrial action an offence of unfair dismissal (report, April 29, 1995). This will rapidly destroy what strength exists in the British economy and demonstrates the pre-eminence that trade unions will acquire in the stakeholder society.

If strikers know that they have to be taken back, annual pay strikes will have no alternative but to pay the wages, increase their prices and move us back into spiralling inflation. The Governor of the Bank of England is right to continue to refer to this causal relationship (report, *Business*, January 6) — he has an eye on the future.

Even dismissals will become virtually impossible. When an employee is on notice of dismissal his colleagues can simply go on strike until he is reinstated. The inability to dismiss (a characteristic of the worst industrial relations of the 1970s) will prove even more damaging than the annual wage strikes and will clearly damage productivity.

If Tony Blair does not withdraw this commitment there will only be one stakeholder in his "new Labour" society: organised labour.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER DYSON,
Director,
Clinical Management Unit,
Suite 1, 18 Darwin Building,
Keele University,
Keele, Staffordshire,
January 19.

Ducks and cormorants

From Mr Peter Giffard

Sir, There is a good deal of confusion about the ruddy duck (letter, January 22). Not everyone sees it as a pest to be exterminated. I have visitors here on open days who go for a walk around the lake created by Capability Brown and come back and ask what is the lovely little duck with the blue beak. Some people only come in order to see them. They are not bird experts but ordinary townspeople here to enjoy the countryside.

I wish English Nature and the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Minister of Agriculture would get together and give as much consideration to the plight of the fish in my lake as they have been to the white-headed duck.

The lake has never been stocked with fish, at least to my knowledge,

but the ancestors of the present fish could go back 200 years or more. In modern jargon I think of them as part of my heritage.

The anglers who fish the lake have, in the past, had tremendous catches. But not now. The fish have been decimated by an invasion of cormorants. A licence to shoot three every month "as an aid to scaring" is not a satisfactory solution, but that is all that the Minister of Agriculture will allow.

I have, therefore, decided that if English Nature want to come and shoot my ruddy duck, they must first shoot ten cormorants for every duck. I generally have three pairs of ruddy duck; so, hopefully, I shall rid myself of the 60 cormorants which have been plaguing my fish this winter.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GIFFARD,
Chillington Hall, Codsall Wood,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands.

Austen and Saltram

From Mr Chris Viveash

Sir, Jane Austen had a connection with Saltram House in Devon long before the filming there of *Sense and Sensibility* (report and leading article, January 22).

In December 1815 Miss Austen instructed her publisher, John Murray, to forward a presentation copy of her new novel *Emma* to the Countess of Morley at Saltram. As she had never met the countess, there is a mystery surrounding the gesture.

The 1st Earl of Morley (1772-1840), formerly Lord Boringdon, was an interesting man. He had two wives, each of them credited with having written one or more of Jane Austen's novels. (It will be remembered that Jane Austen's name never appeared

on the title-page during her lifetime). Lady Augusta Paget, who had been the earl's first wife, was believed by Princess Charlotte to have written *Sense and Sensibility* (sic); and his second wife, Frances Talbot, was thought by Mary Russell Mitford to have written *Pride and Prejudice*. Saltram House is appropriate, indeed, as a film location for an Austen novel.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS VIVEASH,
2 Roman Crescent,
Swindon, Wiltshire,
January 22.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Sport on TV

From Mr R. R. Kimpton

Sir, Why now allow the BBC to advertise during sports programmes (report, January 18), restricting the use of the revenue raised to the financing of further sports programmes?

Objections to BBC advertising relating to the integrity of the programme content would not apply to sporting events, and the danger of a resultant surfeit of sport may be less of a problem than an increase in the licence fee.

Yours faithfully,
REG KIMPTON,
Clifton House,
67 London Road,
Whitechurch, Hampshire,
January 18.

From Mr Anthony Morris

Sir, Will the Government, in the current debate as to whether pay-per-view and subscription television should be allowed to bid and charge for the rights to certain sporting events, also consider prohibiting the sale of tickets at the gate?

In my opinion such extension of the principle of free access is no more logical than the extension of the box office by means of television, which will eventually inject sufficient money to provide training facilities and attract players of a quality that will enable this country to win international events, perhaps even cricket.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MORRIS,
High Rising,
Pedn-Moran, St Mawes, Cornwall,
January 22.

From Mr D. F. L. Pritchard

Sir, If we are to be charged a £5 "sports levy" on the BBC licence fee, will those many of us who do not care about sport and dislike losing other programmes to it, or having them delayed, be awarded a £5 compensation?

Yours etc,
DONALD F. L. PRITCHARD,
68 Evendons Lane,
Wokingham, Berkshire,
January 18.

Sports letters, page 42

Growing problem

From His Honour Judge John Bishop

Sir, I have just returned from an evening at the theatre. Yet again, my view of a large part of the stage was obscured by the person sitting in front of me.

Looking back, I find that, these days, my view is nearly always blocked to some extent, and conclude that this is further evidence that people are generally bigger than they used to be (for example, when the theatres were built and their seating installed). One looks at the size of current international rugby players, compared to those, say, 15 years ago, to see the best example, but this is another.

Soon it will be necessary for theatres to do something about it, if we are to receive proper value for the price of our tickets.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BISHOP,
(SF 111),
High Down,
1 Woodgavil, Banstead, Surrey,
January 20.

NEWS

Fresh trial for Kevin Maxwell

Kevin Maxwell faces the prospect of another long trial after the Serious Fraud Office announced it was pressing ahead with further charges against him.

Hillary Clinton faces grand jury

Hillary Clinton arrived at a federal courthouse to become the first President's wife to be subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury.

Writ for Duchess

The Duchess of York faced fresh embarrassment over her finances as a former friend issued a High Court writ demanding she repay a £100,000 loan.

Frozen Britain

Below-freezing temperatures and Arctic winds closed roads across Britain.

Jail settlement

Seven prisoners claiming they were mentally traumatised by riots in Strangeways jail, reached out-of-court settlements of almost £5,000 each.

Retirement cabins

The first US-style retirement village for almost 1,000 people is planned in Essex, complete with golf links and log cabins.

Act of cruelty

Cruelty to hedgehogs, badgers and frogs will soon be punishable by jail under a Bill rushed through the Commons.

Survival is no picnic for teddy bears

The evolution of the teddy bear is determined by the survival of the fittest, according to psychologists. Since the first teddies were made, they have evolved by degrees from long-nosed animals into cute, snub-nosed creatures.

Scottish dinosaurs

Dinosaur footprints believed to be the first discovered in Scotland have been found in Skye.

Church message

Britain is becoming religiously illiterate, according to the new Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres.

Beautiful ambition

Irene Sáez, 34, who was Miss Universe in 1981, hopes to become the next President of Venezuela.

Saddam 'cancer'

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq is reported to have lymphatic cancer.

EMU debate

France's debate on European monetary union intensified when Philippe Séguin, Speaker of the National Assembly, insisted postponing plans for a single currency would not be a disaster.



Indian soldiers march in Delhi yesterday to mark the country's 47th anniversary of independence. Page 11

OPINION

Hillary and Cherie: The hostility towards Hillary Clinton has been compounded by the unease which many Americans feel about a First Lady being both a career woman and a political adviser to her husband.

COLUMNS

Philip Howard: We English are famous throughout the world for our hypocrisy about schools - and everything else.

BUSINESS

Sainsbury: The supermarket group warned the stock market that profits in the financial year would suffer because of the price war and advertising costs.

SPORT

Football: Newcastle United hope that Faustino Asprilla, the Colombia international, will be available for them in a fortnight.

THE PAPERS

Mr Major's place in history will be determined by his handling of the Irish crisis.

LETTERS

Practising forgiveness: global warming: William Cash, MP, on monetary union: stakeholder society.

SATURDAY TIMES

MAGAZINE

Missing: Alan Jackson on the mysterious case of Richey James Edwards, the disappearing pop star.

WEEKEND

Catch the sun: The house and car that cost nothing to run.

10 15

The weekly magazine for young Times readers: Boarding school: abroad with the snowboarding Brits.

The seven-day guide to television and radio: Cover story: the curious world of the children's charm pagant in Painted Babies.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,075

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition.

A crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares and some pre-filled letters.

- ACROSS: 1 Bookmaker's vague aides keep him in extras (5). 4 Officer making warship change direction (4). 9 Ruzic in novel, putting condition to gangster (9). 10 Deviate from perpendicular (5). 11 Choice cut from right inside animal (4). 12 Once again, make to relax (5). 14 Showing lung trouble, roughly speaking? Pin on cigarette (4,4). 16 Implicitly ask one in sabon (5). 19 Pleased with oneself, putting trees back in (4). 20 Sailing carefully in the sea - not shipshape (10). 22 International group giving dangerously laconic advice to motorists? (3,5). 23 Gas that's found in the blood (4). 26 Live in Lincoln? I would! (5). 27 Yelling a popular leader repeatedly to head revolt (9). 28 It gets him moving with the utmost force (9).

Two word search puzzles: 'WINDOWSHOP ATOP' and 'DECATHLON NIGHT'.

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

Table with weather forecasts for various regions like Greater London, Kent, Devon, etc.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with road status information for various routes like London & SE traffic, M25, etc.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with sunrise and sunset times for various cities like London, Edinburgh, Manchester.

HIGH TIDES

Table with high tide times for various locations like London, Southampton, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temperature ... lowest day temperature ...

FORECAST

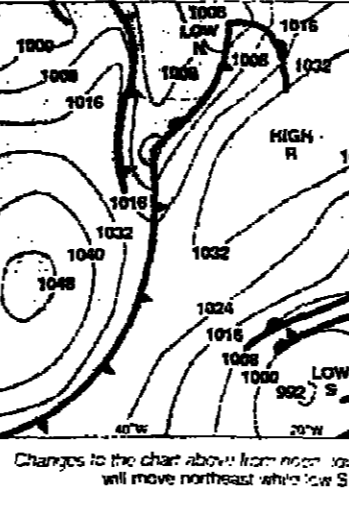
General: England and Wales will have a very cold day with temperatures below freezing in many places.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

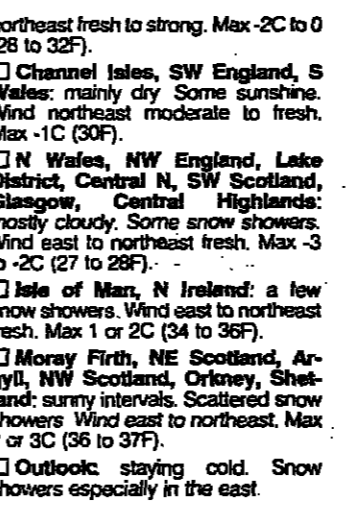
Table with weather data for various cities like Aberdeen, London, Manchester, etc.

ABROAD

Table with weather data for various international cities like Moscow, Tokyo, etc.



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Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Sainsbury shares by pro warm'.

SATURDAY TIMES



MELVYN MARCKUS 26

Our City Editor on the Maxwell affair

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

FORTE-TUDE 27

Sir Rocco picks himself up and comes out fighting



SPORT 42-48

Why second best simply will not do for Jerry Jones

HIDDEN ASSETS OF SMITH & NEPHEW

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

Sainsbury shares hit by profit warning

By Sarah Bagnall

SAINSBURY'S warned shareholders yesterday that it expects its first drop in profits in 20 years as a public company.

David Sainsbury, chairman of the supermarket group, said that full-year profits would fall to match City expectations, sending the shares 2 1/2 p lower to 389p as analysts slashed their forecasts.

In the past year Sainsbury's market share has been eroded and the food retailer has been ousted from the number one slot by Tesco. In an attempt to reinstate itself as Britain's largest supermarket group Sainsbury is to invest millions in customer service and advertising.

Mr Sainsbury said: "Our commitment to enhancing customer service and price competitiveness, together with increased advertising, will reduce profit in the current financial year below earlier expectations."

Sainsbury has hired an extra 2,500 staff in a bid to improve customer service in stores. This will add about £10 million to second-half costs, while increased advertising aimed at communicating more effectively the group's pricing position will cost a further £10 million. In addition, the second-half gross margin is expected to slide as Sainsbury pushes ahead with its pricing promotions.

Analysts cut their forecasts for profits for the year to March 12 from as high as £825 million to about £760 million. The fall in share price was limited, however, by the City's relief that Sainsbury finally appears to be tackling its

problems. Philip Dorgan, an analyst at Societe General Strauss Turnbul, said: "If there is such a thing as a good profit warning then this is one because they are investing in areas that need improving."

Tony MacNeary, an analyst at NatWest Securities, has cut his forecast from £787 million, which was at the bottom of the range of forecasts, to £760 million. He said it was too early to tell whether more action would be needed to rectify Sainsbury's position.

Mr Sainsbury said the group's objective was to reclaim the title as Britain's largest food retailer but that the goal would not be achieved by the end of the year.

Like-for-like sales rose 4.5 per cent in the six weeks to January 13, a pick-up in activity that helped underlying sales rise by 3 per cent in the 16 weeks to mid-January. This compares to Tesco's 8.5 per cent advance in like-for-like sales over a similar period. The supermarket business accounts for about 80 per cent of group sales.

Mr Sainsbury said: "We had a record Christmas and importantly the sales growth has moved up a notch. So we are moving in the right direction." The group intends to introduce further promotions. The chairman said: "I am extremely optimistic about our competitive position. Customers have responded well to our January Savers promotion and so we intend to extend it. We have done promotions in the past but none at this strength in either price or communication."

Times, page 28



Store wars: David Sainsbury, who has promised to extend price promotions

still improving

SAINSBURY'S Where good food costs

GOOD FOOD CO

CBI chief defends stance on pay

By Philip Bassett Industrial Editor

ADAIR TURNER, head of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday insisted that economic growth in Britain would lead to rising real incomes for employees and dismissed the charge that he is advocating a pay freeze-for-all.

The Director-General of the CBI strongly defended his claim that real wages will rise over the longer term, provided productivity and profitability also increase. Mr Turner maintained that rising real wages are both essential to and an inevitable consequence of the economic growth everyone wanted.

The outcry over his statements on pay made in a speech this week has prompted the CBI to write to member companies to explain his position.

Mr Turner had said that new forms of pay determination, including profit-related and performance-related pay, linked employees more closely to their companies. He jokingly suggested that employees would become "dare I say it, stakeholders" - a clear, if light, reference to the stakeholders idea being promoted by Labour leader Tony Blair.

Labour and the unions welcomed Mr Turner's words, angering ministers who saw it as business giving greater support to Labour than it should.

In its weekly bulletin to members, the CBI spelt out in detail precisely what Mr Turner is saying on pay. However, CBI insiders insisted this did not constitute either an apology or a retraction.

Mr Turner told The Times his remarks were about pay in the future, in the medium term, and did not relate to the current wage round. He insisted that economic growth would and should lead to higher real wages, adding that he did not believe it was "contentious" that real wages would increase with economic growth, though he said it was vital to avoid any return to a pay-price spiral.

WEEKEND MONEY 31 Anne Ashworth on the building society waiting game 29 The latest solution to the retirement timebomb 34 Is your society charging too much for your loan? 37 Tessa and the stock market. An unlikely couple? WEEKEND MONEY GUIDES Part one: A-Z of Personal Finance

BUSINESS TODAY table with market data including FT-SE 100, DAX, Nikkei, and various indices.

Planemakers plan super-jumbo jets

By Ross Tleman, Industrial Correspondent

BOEING of America and Airbus Industrie, the European planemakers consortium, are set to begin developing rival super-jumbo jets carrying up to 600 passengers. The aircraft will do battle for a market estimated to be worth £160 billion over the next 20 years.

An agreement to study joint development of a super-jumbo, the Very Large Commercial Transport, is expected to be terminated shortly by mutual consent. Boeing will then almost certainly begin work on a \$1 billion project to equip its 747 with a new wing and an extended fuselage capable of carrying up to 500 passengers in a three-class configuration. That will leave Airbus, owned jointly by British Aero-

space, Aérospatiale of France, Daimler-Benz of Germany, and Casa of Spain, struggling to raise the \$9 billion to \$10 billion necessary to create an all-new aircraft.

The Europeans must match Boeing's full product range to undermine the ability of their arch-rival to underwrite sales of smaller aircraft. British Airways and Singapore Airlines have said they want to buy super-jumbos, costing up to \$200 million each. According to Airbus studies, 800 such planes could be needed over the next 20 years. Launch aid, in the form of soft-loans from Britain, France, Germany and Spain, will be limited to a third of funding.

Fokker Lifetime, page 26

OFT strips Colorvision of credit licences

By Sarah Bagnall

THE OFFICE of Fair Trading dealt a severe blow to Colorvision yesterday when it stripped the television and video retailer of its consumer credit licences, threatening half the group's profits.

After a three-month investigation the OFT concluded that Colorvision had engaged in business practices that appeared to be either "deceitful or oppressive or otherwise unfair or improper..." It was also found to have breached consumer protection rules. The move, the first time the OFT has revoked the licence of a listed company, sent Colorvision's shares down 9p to 30p, a far cry from the June 1988 price of 25p.

lodge an appeal, which enables the Liverpool-based company and its eight subsidiaries to retain their licences until it is decided. The company said: "The directors... following receipt of legal advice, intend to pursue the appeal most vigorously."

The company admitted it had been convicted on 20 occasions in 11 years but argued that business practices had improved in recent years. John Bridgeman, Director-General of the OFT, said: "Revoking a consumer credit licence is not something we do lightly, given the effect it is likely to have on a business. But no company should be in any doubt that its licence can be revoked if it is found to be

treating its customers unfairly or dishonestly."

Among the offences cited were the sale of ex-display goods as new, the altering of agreements after they had been signed and without customers' consent, and the entering of false information on credit agreements to aid customers' credit worthiness.

Colorvision said: "The directors utterly refute that any or all of these findings are valid or are good reasons upon which to revoke the licences." The news came as Colorvision revealed losses of £420,000, down from £590,000, in the six months to September 30, on sales £600,000 ahead at £29.7 million. There is no dividend. Times, page 28

Fund manager is contender for vacancy in FT-SE 100

MAM may replace Forte on menu

By Alasdair Murray



Galley, index-hope

FORTE faces the ignominy of being replaced in the FT-SE 100 next week by MAM Asset Management, the fund management company that helped to end its existence as an independent company.

The FT-SE actuary's index committee, which controls the make-up of the index, yesterday said that Forte will be replaced by the single largest company outside the FT-SE 100 at close of business on January 30. MAM, with a market value of £1.61 billion, is one of five companies in its position to replace Forte. However, MAM, of which Carol Galley is vice-chairman, will need a sharp rise in its share price to guarantee promotion to the

FT-SE 100. Greenalls, the pub chain, was valued at £1.75 billion at yesterday's close. Others in the running include Next, the clothing retailer, which is valued at £1.7 billion, MEPC, the property group, valued at £1.66 billion, and Anglian Water (£1.52 billion).

A place in the FT-SE 100 not only gives companies a higher profile, but boosts the share price, because index-tracker funds, which hold a stake in every FT-SE 100 company, need to buy into it.

In the most recent shake-up of the index, last month, Arjo Wiggins Appleton, Midlands Electricity and Incheape left. To prevent constant flux in the index,

companies close to 100th in value are allowed a little latitude in their market price and can fall to 11th before being automatically removed. A company outside the FT-SE 100 must climb to 90th in value before automatic inclusion.

Granada yesterday placed 26 million shares in the market, equivalent to 4.4 per cent of its total capital, through ABN Amro Hoare Govett and BZW. The £180 million placement, a technical adjustment to run down the company's 9.9 per cent stake in Forte, was made at 693p. Market-makers said there were plenty of institutional buyers, and Granada's price closed up 10p, at 714p.

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Plug pulled Life pulled the plug on its new £2 million after-hours options trading system just 15 minutes into its debut because of severe faults. The system will now be available for several weeks.

Realisations from Maxwell's private empire top £700m

The Maxwell affair rumbles inexorably on. A week ago the headlines proclaimed "Maxwell Brothers cleared". Such was the outcome of the 131-day trial presided over by Lord Justice Phillips, a case that is estimated to have cost taxpayers the thick end of £30 million. Today heralds somewhat different headlines. Kevin Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg are to go through the hoop again, this time in respect of alleged conspiracy to defraud banks in relation to shares in Berlitz International, the language enterprise. They will be joined as defendants by Albert Fuller, the ex-head of MCC's Treasury. Michael Stoney, a former director of MGN, faces two charges of false accounting.

In the wake of Maxwell Trial I, *The Times* published a five-part series — *Hunt for the Missing Millions* — which analysed Arthur Andersen's administration of Robert Maxwell's private empire. Legal wheels grind on as do the wheels of the largest and most complex corporate recovery operation ever undertaken in the UK. It is more than four years

since Robert Maxwell's sprawling business empire, set against a Pyrenees of debt, came under the control of Arthur Andersen's joint administrators led by John Talbot. During that time, more than 250,000 man-hours have been clocked up on the realisation of assets, the international investigation of Maxwell's corporate legacy, and the agreement of creditors' claims.

Robert Maxwell's controversial business practices have made global headlines but, until now, the administration, that started in December 1991, has received minimal publicity. Talbot is a low-profile operator, much in keeping with the ambience at Arthur Andersen, which sports a logo that makes the most of two closed doors.

Much of the core investigative work, carried out by Arthur Andersen's special unit, dubbed "the untouchables", was completed by the summer of 1992. Major claims were identified and the emphasis progressed towards negotiated settlements or, failing that, litigation.

The investigation unit, spearheaded by Chris Currington and

Leonie Grimes, also provided information to the authorities. This included liaison with MPs. Commons select committees, the Serious Fraud Office, engaged in a multi-facet probe into Robert Maxwell's curiosity shop, and Department of Trade and Industry inspectors. It was in June 1992 that the DTI appointed John Thomas QC and accountant Raymond Turner to investigate and report on the affairs and membership of MGN — particularly affairs pertaining to the previous year's "ring-fenced" flotation. Maxwell Trial I has served to delay publication of the DTI report which, presumably, will be further delayed by yesterday's developments.

It was in the autumn of 1992 that Talbot informed the Commons Social Security Select Committee, chaired by Frank Field, the Labour MP, that realisations at end-July amounted to £10 million. Some 52 of 58 trading businesses had been sold. Administration and legal fees amounted to £6 million and £5 million respectively — 10 per cent of the proceeds. In addition to this, the investigative work had yielded



MELVYN MARCKUS

recoveries of some £4 million at a cost of around £400,000. The select committee, in a subsequent 30-page report, stated that "unravelling the chaos and confusion left by Robert Maxwell" had so far cost creditors, including the pensioners, some £50 million. In the opinion of Field and his colleagues, "The total cost could exceed £100 million." It was also disclosed that despite the select committee's repeated requests for information concerning fees from various administrators,

only Talbot had responded in detail.

Tony Brierley, another administrator, emphasises that the vast majority of asset realisations have been completed. In his words: "The assets that I dealt with in Eastern Europe required considerable patience. Almost the only assets that remain are property, based in the UK."

Maxwell's empire was long on property assets. Peter Tuch, the Arthur Andersen partner who acted as central co-ordinator to the entire administration, says: "We adopt an owner's mentality to property assignments and take a long-term view. By managing the projects ourselves we find that we are able to control costs and maximise site values, as has been the case with Maxwell's portfolio."

One of the quirks of the administration process is that it does not allow administrators to distribute funds. According to Tuch: "We had to ensure that the method of distribution was the most beneficial for creditors. Liquidation appeared expensive and after discussions with the

REALISATIONS	
Source	£ million
MGN share sale	373
Other newspapers	17
AGB	52
British International Helicopters	31
Robert Maxwell's "toys"	20
Miscellaneous businesses, other assets and investigation recoveries	189
Interest	34
Total to date	716
Distributions to date: £440 million	

creditor committees it was agreed that the most appropriate route was by way of company voluntary arrangements." He adds: "Some 40 CVAs have been approved and an adjudication team has been working full time to agree claims. Distributions started at the bottom of Maxwell's pyramid and some £80 million has been paid to unsecured creditors."

Distributions from nearer the top of the pyramid, involving companies such as Robert Maxwell Group, Headington Holdings and London & Bishopsgate Group, have been complicated by the vast flows of funds in and out of Maxwell's "private side". A scheme has been approved to pool the corporate trio's assets for distribution.

As the table shows, overall realisations amount to some £716 million. The Big Man's "toys", including the *Lady Ghislaine* and the Gulfstream GIV, raised some £20 million, while investigation recoveries are understood to have contributed more than £100 million to the £189 million item. The sales of *Ma'ariv* and *The European* accounted for £8.5 million and just over £3 million respectively. Gross private side indebtedness amounts to between £1.75 billion and £2 billion, including inter-company debts. Some £276 million is currently being held by companies under the administration's control.

Fees to date are reputed to amount to less than 4 per cent of the £716 million worth of realisations; significantly more productive than the legal show.

Frederick Cooper warning

Frederick Cooper, the metals engineering group, warned shareholders that operating profits for the six months to January 31 would be "significantly below" those earned in the corresponding period a year ago.

However, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, total dividends are expected to be slightly in excess of the 25p paid for the year ended July 31, 1995. The shares fell 6p to 48p.

OGC pegs offer

OGC International ruled out an increase in its agreed offer for OIS International Inspection, the oil industry services company, after Abbot Group, the engineering concern, increased the value of its original bid to £9.94 million from £8.25 million and acquired a 20 per cent stake in the company. Abbot's bid is worth 32p a share in cash, with an all-shares alternative, against OGC's offer of 28p.

Bland resigns

Sir Christopher Bland has resigned as non-executive director of Nynex Cablecomms Group, the cable television and telephony company, with effect from January 1 after his appointment as chairman of the board of governors of the BBC.

Fokker is offered short-term lifeline

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Dutch Government is offering a temporary loan of 255 million guilders (£124 million) to administrators of Fokker, the stricken regional aircraft group, to provide a breathing space while buyers are sought for the business.

Government orders for four Fokker planes worth 110 million guilders are being brought forward to help to keep the factory at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport in work. But Hans Wijers, the Dutch Economics Minister, said that there was "no reason whatsoever for great optimism" about a rescue. Although speculators continued to buy Fokker shares, the minister said the company "faces very great problems".

Although the holding company and its commercial aircraft business are in administration, the company's aircraft

servicing and defence arms are trading normally.

One of the three administrators, Rutger Schimmelpenninck, said that he did not rule out finding a solution for the whole of Fokker. "I don't want to express pessimism or optimism — there are still too many open ends," he said. "The situation is worrying. Let's not forget that. But there is hope."

Bombardier, the Canadian group tipped to acquire Fokker's regional jet business, said again that it had "shown no interest". It already owns de Havilland, Canadian and Short Brothers of Belfast.

Short Brothers, which makes wings and other assemblies for Fokker's jets, has already taken preliminary steps to make up to 1,500 workers redundant.

The chances of finding a buyer, particularly within the four-week reprieve from creditors granted to Fokker by a court in The Netherlands.

Mr Wijers said that the difficulties of finding a rescuer in an industry with large financial risks, continuing overcapacity and rumour-prices "were not good." For the time being it is just words and paper," he said. He added that the Government would insist on market rates for its loans.

Trustees for some bonds issued by Fokker have begun moves to require their repayment. Commentators in Germany, which paid bonds issued on Fokker's behalf, responded to speculation about the likely impact on its profits by saying that it had accounted for all possible risks in its 1992 accounts. This was interpreted as an indication that it had already written down some of the debt.



Different picture: John Partridge, the chairman of Partridge Fine Arts, reported a fall in profits to £1.9 million from £2.8 million last year. The dividend is cut to 2.9p from 3.3p

News Corp and MCI in US move

By GEORGE SIVELL

MCI, the communications group, is to team up with The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, to offer information and entertainment services to businesses and consumers across America via direct broadcast satellite.

The announcement follows MCI's successful \$682 million bid in the Federal Communications Commission auction for the last remaining direct broadcast satellite slot to provide coverage of all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Bert C. Roberts, chairman and chief executive officer of MCI, said: "This new venture is a perfect marriage of MCI's sales and marketing skills, customer base and billing abilities with News Corp's expertise in entertainment and information programming."

"We are especially excited about our ability to create unique new information products for our customers, a strategy that will clearly put us out in front of our competitors."

Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, said: "This new venture demonstrates the strength of our strategic relationship with MCI. Working with MCI, News Corp will leverage its leadership in the worldwide entertainment and information business to bring exciting new video and information services to American consumers."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

British-Borneo in £54m rights issue

BRITISH-BORNEO Petroleum Syndicate is raising £54.1 million through a two-for-five rights issue at 310p per new ordinary share to finance exploration and development of deep-water oilfields in the Gulf of Mexico. It also announced a pre-tax profit of £13.6 million for last year, up 20 per cent. Oil and gas revenues were also up 20 per cent to £38.4 million. Existing shares rose 32p, to 410p.

Alan Gaynor, chief executive of British-Borneo, which already operates in the North Sea and shallow-water areas of the Gulf of Mexico, said the new development is an "opportunity... giving us a competitive advantage over our peers for the next 12 to 18 months". Last month, the company entered into an agreement with Shell to develop and exploit the Morpeth oilfield, which has estimated reserves of around 50 million barrels. *Tempus*, page 28

NSM warns of loss

NSM, the mining company, yesterday said that it was likely to incur a loss in the second half of the year after being hit by a number of problems, including an out-of-court settlement, severe weather and lower prices. The company acquired Ryan Mining for £25 million last year but is also looking to make about £15 million from disposals. It said it expected to be profitable for the year, but if a number of disposals were not completed before March there would be a second-half loss.

Grosvenor Inns ahead

GROSVENOR INNS, the bar and pub company, announced a 27 per cent rise in half-year profits to £913,000 before tax. The company, whose pubs include the Slug and Lettuce, Hedgehog and Hogshead and Belchers chains, also said it was buying out the 20 per cent minority stake in Bar Central for up to £1.95 million. The costs will be covered with a share issue. The company, which secured a full Stock Exchange listing last August, increased turnover 24 per cent to £3.7 million. The dividend was raised 10 per cent to 2.75p, payable on March 15.

Porsche accelerates

PORSCHE, the German sports car manufacturer, said its turnaround was continuing, with profits of DM100 million expected for the first half of the 1996 fiscal year. After three years of losses, it reported a profit of DM2.1 million for the year to July 31. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting yesterday that group revenues were up 19 per cent to about DM1.4 billion in the first six months of the fiscal year to January 31, against DM1.19 billion last time. Car sales rose 17 per cent to 9,569 during the same period.

Caird plans refinancing

CAIRD GROUP, the troubled waste management company, announced a major refinancing, including a debt reduction, the restructuring of ordinary and preference shares and an issue of convertible loan stock to raise £5 million. Yorkshire Bank, the group's principal banker, will be repaid £5 million, and has agreed to write off a further £7 million of the debt and to extend new facilities of £7.7 million. The issue is underwritten by CRBF, an investment fund owning 11 per cent of Caird.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The middle-aged man, watched by a small group of dazed colleagues, cut the inscription "A member of Daimler-Benz Aerospace" from the company's blue emblem and left the name Fokker to flutter alone at half-mast... *Business Forum* — *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

TOURIST RATES

	Same Day	Bar	Bar
	Buy	Sell	Sell
Australia \$	2.13	1.97	
Austria Sch	16.73	16.29	
Belgium F	49.18	44.82	
Canada Cdn	0.781	0.821	
Denmark Kr	7.46	8.50	
Finland Mk	0.722	0.682	
France F	9.14	7.99	
Germany C	2.20	2.15	
Greece Dr	352.29	367.22	
Hong Kong \$	7.76	7.52	
Ireland Sp	7.72	7.52	
Italy Lit	2032.76	2077.25	
Japan Yen	160.37	153.52	
Spain Ptas	166.64	158.92	
Sweden Kr	137.11	131.36	
Switzerland S	1.48	1.43	
USA \$	1.54	1.47	

Notes: 1. All rates are approximate and subject to change. 2. All rates are for 100 units of foreign currency. 3. All rates are for 100 units of sterling. 4. All rates are for 100 units of the local currency.

Company failure at 6-year low

By MARTIN BARROW

THE number of company failures fell last year to its lowest point since 1989. Figures published by KPMG yesterday show that there were 1,755 restructurings, a 14 per cent decrease over 1994's figure of 2,010.

The fall was evenly spread across the UK with nearly all regions witnessing a decline. However, the rate of decline appeared to diminish during 1995. Between the first and second quarters the number fell to nearly 11 per cent, but between the third and fourth quarters the fall was nearer to 3 per cent.

The annual rate, in percentage terms, is also declining. Between 1992 and 1995 the number fell 24 per cent, and between 1993 and 1994 by 28 per cent. But between 1994 and 1995 it was just 14 per cent.

KPMG said the slower rate suggested the level of company failures is nearing a point of natural wastage, where companies fail irrespective of economic conditions.

Tim Hayward, KPMG's head of corporate recovery,

Temple of home to Eric Re

Eric Re... *Temple of home to Eric Re*



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A WORKING WEEK FOR: SIR ROCCO FORTE

Indiarubber man bounces back into the fray

Mary Riddell finds that quiet pride in defeat is tempered by a fierce determination to succeed in the complex world of business

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

IT WAS, in the end, more of a celebration than a wake. Two days after the party to mark the demise of the Forte empire, Sir Rocco's staff paused in corridors now Granada-owned to discuss battles past and hangovers that were still vaguely present.

Sir Rocco, by contrast, remained at all times clear-headed, although he, too, had enjoyed his evening. "These things can be such funerals, but this one was not. We lost, but it almost seemed as if we had won," he said.

It was late on Tuesday night when he left the Café Royal, where he once worked in the cellars for £4 a week, and stepped into his chauffeur-driven car, abandoning as a special concession to the extraordinary day, his normal habit of jogging five miles home.

Sir Rocco did not pause, for he is not a backward-looking man, to reflect on the enormity of the realisation that his business, nurtured and built up from the first milk bar his father bought, had fallen to Granada's £3.8 billion hostile takeover.

Instead he slept for a few hours, woke as normal at 5am and lay in bed to consider what he would do next. "I hadn't focused on anything until then. It would have been so defeatist. But on Wednesday morning I started to think very hard. Granada had said they didn't want to keep a lot of the hotels, and I thought the best person to buy them was me."

Shortly after dawn, the phone rang at the home of one of Sir Rocco's financial advisers. "Let's get busy," said the brisk voice on the other end of the line. And so, later that day, the City learnt to its astonishment that Sir Rocco was working on a potential £2.5 billion management buyout of the Forte hotel empire.

"I put it to Gerry Robinson, and he thought it a good idea, so we'll have a look at it." The voice is still brisk, his manner temperate, and one can only marvel at the indiarubber resilience of Sir Rocco Forte.

To suggest that this has been a tough week would be the blindest understatement, and the signs of strain are, however faintly, present.

The eyes are red from tiredness, the patent-shed feet twitch with nervous energy, and he sits his hands through his hair in a frequent and weary gesture. "Oh, I probably need a holiday, but I'm certainly not going to take one now."

Such luxuries evaporated on the day, late last November, when he was informed that the fight was on. He was shaving at the time, in preparation for a day's shooting. Pheasant, he stresses, and not — as reported — grouse.

The perfect country gentleman, Sir Rocco is baffled by the British ignorance of the sporting calendar. For hostile takeover bids, however outmoded, there

is no close season. Gerry Robinson had mounted his attack.

The first, insomniac days and nights were the worst, he says now. The worry, the long hours of traipsing round the institutions, formulating his defence strategy. There were harsh words, bitter clashes and now, you imagine, quite the hardest thing must be sitting round a table with Mr Robinson, attempting politely to stitch a deal together.

"I'm not someone for looking back. I'm not the sort of person who carries any bitterness or rancour. They are very destructive feelings, and anyway, you're channelling energy away from yourself. Anything said or not said, done or not done is past and forgotten. That's what I told Granada."

And, besides, in his heart, he knew. By the beginning of this week, Sir Rocco had mentally adjusted himself for the worst, and when it came, he was calm.

"I'd prepared myself for the outcome, and I was stoical," he said. "Everyone here was so upset, and I had to be the one to show strength."

Whitbread declined to join him in a defensive strategy, and still he laid contingency plans. "We had some firepower ready," he said. "We'd have gone in and bought 6 per cent with family money and other supporters."

But the endgame was being played out. At 2.30 on Tuesday afternoon, Sir Rocco learnt that Granada had won. Earlier that day he had been told that Mercury Asset Management, holder of a 14.4 per cent stake, was not coming with him.

When Carol Galley, its vice-chairman, walked into his office, decorated with clusters of portraits of his wife, Aliai, and their three children, he was scrupulously polite. "I said I thought it was the wrong decision. That was all."

Afterwards he sat and mourned. Not for himself because he is careful not to confuse business with sentiment, but for those — the executives, the chefs and the waiters — who had worked so tirelessly for him.

"That was the lowest point, emotionally. There were a couple of difficult hours." Somewhere in them, Sir Rocco picked up the phone and spoke to his father. How, you wonder, could Lord Forte, now 87, cope with such devastating news.

It was he who, as an Italian immigrant, had built the business from nothing. He who had travelled to Downside School in Somerset to instruct his beloved and only son in the entrepreneurial art; he who had watched as his heir progressed, via an undistinguished Oxford languages degree and a stint as an accountant, to take over as the head of the empire.

"We don't need a white knight," Lord Forte had said, as the bid progressed. "We've got Rocco." But in the moment of defeat, he too was calm.

"It's even worse for him than me," Sir Rocco said. "He put so much effort into starting up the business and developing

I'd prepared myself and was stoical. I had to show strength



Lying in wait: Sir Rocco relaxing before the battle for Forte finally swung Granada's way. Now his energies are focused on a plan to buy back the hotels

it. But he's a tough cookie and as resilient as anyone, even at his age. All he said to me was: 'You've done well.'"

Although Sir Rocco is a carefully unemotional man, that tribute meant much to him. Acutely conscious of defusing any notion that Forte was a sort of family fiefdom, he must surely have been constrained by the sniping, however unfair, that any triumph belonged to his father and any failure to him.

"Well, if people ever thought that, they can't do so now. And no, I don't feel guilty. I feel rather proud, actually." Of himself, of his staff, but also of his family.

Sir Rocco, who was 51 last week, married when he was 41 and admits that in the first years, "always the most difficult ones", he had difficulty in remembering that he must take someone else's wishes into account.

But his marriage to Aliai has been a happy one, and she has remained his chief solace during the past week.

"Your wife has to put up with a lot, and she has," Sir Rocco said. "She's been terrific. She's on the outside, watching, listening, over-disturbed by what newspapers are saying when they don't have all the facts. And I'm getting home late and

tired and not really feeling like talking about things."

It has, on average, been 10.30pm when Sir Rocco has jogged through his Chelsea front door, expecting his dinner to be prepared. "I'm a bit of a male chauvinist, I suppose, and she's a wonderful homemaker and mother. She was very upset by some article saying all she did was go out to parties. She's not like that at all."

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

As for Sir Rocco, his domestic skills are minimal, although — his current worries notwithstanding — he did find time

recently to rustle up an omelette for the children. "They said it was the best one they had ever tasted."

In hotels, by contrast, he is a domestic scourge, frequently to be found in the kitchen of the Meridian or the George V or the Grosvenor House, sorting through the refrigerators for evidence of perfect housekeeping.

He will miss that, as he will miss so much, but he will be back, he hopes, on the same familiar territory. "We're the most natural buyers. We've transformed this business into what it is. We know it backwards, and I think we'll find the backing to do it," he said.

If he does not succeed he will return in some other venture (as chief executive,

this time, with an outside chairman, for he has grown more sensitive to City preference). The lure will not be money alone, since his £90 million personal fortune renders him secure enough.

"Why do I want to start again? Because I'm ambitious, I have drive and energy, and I don't want to retire and live in the country and play golf and nothing else. There's a creative side to business which people forget — as creative as drawing a wonderful painting or composing a piece of music."

"Just being rich isn't the be-all and end-all. If I reach old age I want to look back and say: 'I've given it everything I had. I've made the best of what I was born with. I've been a success.'"

HIDDEN ASSETS

Temple of literary delights is home to healthcare group

Edlie Brooks has vivid memories of the time he started to run out of enthusiasm for conducting bus tours. In 1980, he escorted 38 London nurses to a beer festival in Belgium, checking them into a hotel called the Parrot in Ostend.

"They ripped two doors out of the bedrooms and threw them off the balcony," he said. "Then they wrecked four cars... plucked all the feathers off the stuffed parrot in the lobby and hung a sign around its neck saying 'The Straker'."

The mob was escorted by police to the French border and Mr Brooks, now 54, eventually became the housekeeper at 2 Temple Place, the London headquarters of Smith & Nephew, the healthcare company best known for Nivea and Elastoplast.

But Mr Brooks soon found that "housekeeper" is a misnomer. Temple Place, also known as Astor House, is such an architectural gem that he spends much of his time guiding clients and other visitors through its handsome rooms, a job that he loves doing.

Temple Place, on the Victoria Embankment, was built in 1895 as the residence and office of William Waldorf Astor, the wealthy American businessman who emigrated to Britain in 1890 after a distinguished career as politician, diplomat and newspaper proprietor.

Astor, later the first Viscount Astor, spent what was then a fortune, \$1.5 million, on Temple Place. The fairly small, two-storey house is

Eric Reguly tours Astor House, now the London HQ of Smith & Nephew



A cherub at the entrance commemorates that the house was the first in London to have a telephone installed

built of Portland stone and rests on a concrete base 16ft thick. The floors are of marble, jasper, porphyry and onyx laid in geometrical patterns. The walls are of English oak, Spanish mahogany and pencil cedar and the pillars are of solid ebony.

While the materials are impressive, what was made of them is remarkable. "Astor loved the theatre and literature," Mr Brooks said, and Temple Place is dedicated to the works of which he was most fond. On the posts of the main staircase are carved figures from The Three Musketeers — including d'Artagnan, Milady and Aramis — created by Thomas Nicholls. The frieze at the top of the gallery depicts scenes from Othello, Antony and Cleopatra and

Macbeth. The great hall, which was Astor's private office and living room, is the highlight of the tour. It is 71ft long and has a ceiling, a lovely example of Gothic timberwork, that is 35ft high. Smith & Nephew uses it for board meetings and to impress visitors, but little else.

Fifty carved portraits — among them Dante, Captain Cook, Bismarck, Machiavelli and Michelangelo — adorn the hall's frieze. Astor had them covered in gold leaf so that he could see them more clearly.

The listed mahogany door on the hall's north side depicts nine figures from Arthurian legend and was once displayed at the Royal Academy. In 1944, when a flying bomb hit its west side, the fireplace was shattered. More damage might have been done had it not been for the protection afforded by the 75-ton safe in the adjoining room.

Smith & Nephew has had Temple House valued at £5 million but considers it priceless. It has no desire to move — the central location is perfect and the company finds it a useful marketing tool; clients and potential customers are always eager to visit. The company also finds that the maintenance costs are minimal because the house is so well-built.

The rest of Britain will get a later this year on television. It was used in the new BBC series Midsomer, about a company of solicitors, and the dapper Mr Brooks, transformed from guide to law partner, is in several scenes.

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PAIN IN GAIN 37

Delays cause more Tessa troubles

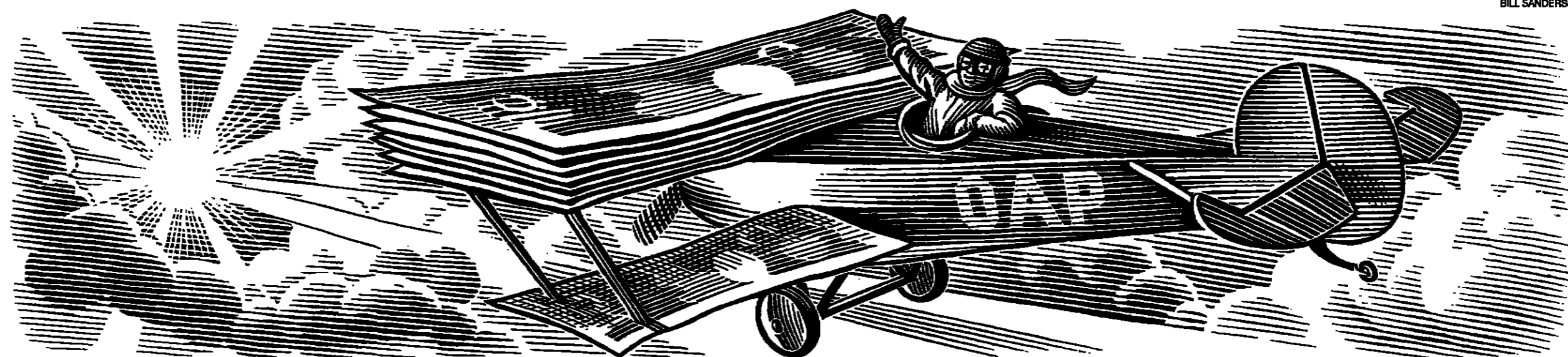
WEEKEND MONEY

A-Z OF FINANCE

Your guide through the money maze



Compulsory contributions to a new scheme may be needed to resolve crisis



Workers may have to top up pensions

Action is needed soon to erase the threat of old-age poverty. Sara McConnell reports

Working people may be compelled to make contributions to pension schemes to top up basic state retirement provision, if the Government accepts the advice of an independent inquiry into retirement income published this week.

The Retirement Income Enquiry (RIE) claims compulsory contributions to top up pension schemes by the better off are the only way the country can ensure its citizens have enough to live on in retirement. It criticises the existing pensions regime as "unsatisfactory for many people" and gives warning that some of society's more vulnerable people find themselves facing poverty in old age.

Its findings reflect growing Government fears that an ageing population, combined with a shrinking workforce, will put an unbearable strain on the present state pension by the early decades of the next century.

So how might the system work? What will be different? Here are answers to some of the questions you may be asking.

Q I work full-time and pay National Insurance contributions, so am I contributing to my pension?

A In theory, yes. Part of your NI contribution goes into the National Insurance fund, which pays state pensions. There are two sorts of state pension, basic and earnings-related. The maximum basic state pension for a single person this year is £58.85 and for a couple £94.10, but you only get this if you have paid full National Insurance contributions throughout your working life. You are also paying towards the state earn-

Q So why am I contributing "in theory"?

A National Insurance fund is run on a pay-as-you-go



Pensioners may soon get the answers they want to hear

ings related pension scheme (Serps), unless you or your company have opted out. By the time today's workers, particularly those in their 30s and 40s, reach pension age, it is unlikely the fund will be able to afford more than a nominal state pension, despite recent moves to raise women's retirement age to 65.

than workers can make it up again. By the time today's workers, particularly those in their 30s and 40s, reach pension age, it is unlikely the fund will be able to afford more than a nominal state pension, despite recent moves to raise women's retirement age to 65.

ance fund, will be one element of a new "assured pension", be made up of state pension, savings and a top-up from the state if necessary to what the Government considers an adequate income.

This basic pension will be topped up with compulsory contributions to an occupational scheme, a personal pension or a new national pension scheme, on top of state contributions. Employers and employees would both have to contribute at least a set minimum, as would the self-employed. It is not yet clear who would run a national scheme, but it could be the insurance companies operating under contract from a specially created governing body.

Q But it is insurance companies who sold all those people the wrong pensions!

A Even insurance companies admit they have a credibility problem and the RIE expresses concern about pension mis-selling. More than two years after hundreds of thousands of people were found to have been wrongly advised to transfer from company schemes to personal pensions, only a handful have been compensated. The reputation of insurance companies generally is likely

to be one of the biggest sticking points if one or more of them secures a contract with the Government to operate the national scheme.

Q Are company schemes any better? What if my employer steals my pension money?

A The Government was forced to act to tighten up occupational pension regulation after hundreds of millions of pounds disappeared from the coffers of Maxwell pensioners. The Pensions Act 1995 provides for a compensation fund, a pensions regulator and a certain proportion of member trustees to try to prevent abuse. But none of these will stop an employer bent on fraud.

Mis-selling bill could top expected £4 billion

Pearl attacks rivals' findings

IN the latest development in the personal pension controversy, Pearl Assurance this week fought back against claims that its bill for compensating for mis-selling was higher than the industry average.

The company's claim could mean that the £4 billion total previously given as the life insurance industry's total liability for the personal pension scandal could be an underestimate.

Pearl refused to comment on the £240m estimate for its own compensation, and claimed it was too early to tell what the eventual bill would be.

sonal pension sales may need to be compensated.

Pearl added that it had indicated that it had a problem with mis-selling of personal pensions at the end of 1993. This was a full year before the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog, ordered the industry to undertake a full review of personal pensions.

Insurance companies had encouraged nurses, miners, police officers and other public sector employees to opt out from their pension schemes, or transfer deferred benefits. Other em-

ployees had been urged not to join company schemes. Those who have been misadvised will eventually be compensated for losses.

Last week, a survey of some of the biggest pension providers pinpointed Pearl as having one of the biggest problems with mis-selling. Max Mauchline, Pearl customer benefit review manager, disputed its findings, saying: "Our discussions with others carrying out the review would indicate that we have the same proportion of opt-outs as others," adding that transfers are less consistent.

Pearl has so far paid compensation of £1m on 200 cases, from a total of 40,000 opt-outs and 86,000 transfers.

The Personal Investment Authority, the regulatory body, said it did not rule out disciplining companies where there was clear evidence of systematic mis-selling.

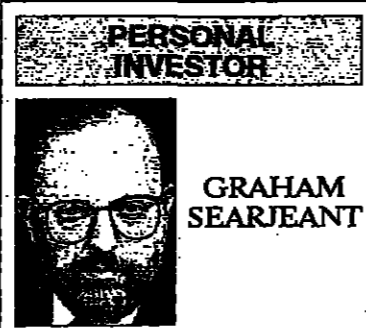
CAROLINE MERRELL

Stakeholders v the barons

Remember last summer's stormy British Gas meeting? Private investors lambasted those new pay packages on which the board wasted so much time. Faceless pension fund managers, insurance companies and trusts backed the board. Perhaps they reflected the true feelings of the silent majority of small investors, as well as beneficiaries of the funds they manage. Perhaps not. There is no way of knowing.

Institutional investors' power to outdo individuals was well illustrated in the bizarre Forte affair. Unless quick money is to be had, however, the City barons who wield such power are not always so keen to exercise it. Contrary to unspoken guidelines, most did not bother to register a vote when asked by British Aerospace to approve the sale of Rover to Germany's BMW. The minority still outvoted private investors.

This hegemony might soon change. A fully funded compulsory National Pension Scheme to replace Serps, recommended by Sir John Anson's Retirement Income Inquiry, makes enough sense to see the light of day in the next five years. Unless the vast majority opted for private schemes instead, it would rapidly outgrow any other fund in the country. Quite rightly, the Anson report presumes that "the fund would be invested in a well-balanced portfolio of investments, like any other defined contribution fund". That would make it the biggest owner of domestic shares.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

In the long run, that must be good for share prices. It will also change the role of shareholders. Thankfully, few now want Whitehall to use such shares to control firms, like some new version of the National Enterprise Board. But the fund is bound to be politicised. The Anson report says it should be run not by government but by "a governing body acting in the interest of beneficiaries". That body would be appointed by ministers, however, so its conduct would be as open to political debate as independently regulated utilities.

wishes of members that might conflict with maximising proceeds. Alternative private funds, except for voluntary employers' schemes, should also expect to be more accountable to members.

The first problem would be choosing politically correct equity investments. But that is also most easily solved: by avoiding choice. The national fund would have to mirror the all-share index, not necessarily a bad thing. Dragoned contributors wanting a specific "ethical" or "green" policy could opt for a dedicated private fund.

Passive management might also help in the fraught area of takeover bids. Some index funds do nothing before a bidder wins control. This builds in a bias against hostile takeover bids, but that would doubtless be popular.

Even under such a regime, there is no escaping issues of corporate governance and company conduct: from share options to control of the chief executive, from dividend policy to major deals, from environmental audits to dirty deeds in poor countries. The national fund, or non-employer equivalents, would have to vote if topics come up.

Canny pressure groups will make sure votes are called, lobby funds and badger managers or governing bodies to answer for their actions. That process will wash over into pressure on the bloc-wielding barons to become more open and accountable too. Private shareholders would gain no power individually, but could wield far more collectively, if pressure groups lobbying the faceless ones reflect their views. If not, they had better start their own.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth



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Clare Stewart on our national obsession, antiques, from fine art to Dinky Toys

Bulls roam the auction houses

INTEREST in antiques is growing, fuelled perhaps by the Jane Austen costume dramas that fill our TV screens. Last week 15,000 collectors packed the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre for the Art and Antiques Fair, mounted by Lapada, the association of art and antique dealers. Furniture sold strongly, with a pair of 19th-century cabinets making £42,000.

On show to tempt buyers at the Birmingham fair were £20 million worth of antiques, ranging from £5 to £100,000. The rush at the fair reflects a revived nationwide collector and bargain-hunter search for local shops and village hall sales in their quest for something going for a song.

Buying antiques is a national passion that embraces an enormous diversity of taste and budget, whether you are serious for investment, are drawn by the visual appeal of certain items, or just enjoy collecting.

The following television series, such as *Antiques Roadshow* and *Antiques at the Auction*, indicate the current interest. Now in its eighth year, the programme attracts about 12 million viewers every week, and at each location between 2,000 and 5,000 people turn up to watch the treasures, frequently acquired from Japan in order to be seen by the experts.

This year promises to be busy for dealers and auction houses, with prices expected to continue their post-recession recovery. The fine art and antiques in what was hit hard by the recession at various buyers and sellers, started again, and auctioneers and dealers had to tighten their belts.

International sales at Christie's last year totalled \$975 million, up 14 per cent on the previous year. Highlights included top prices being set in categories ranging from Old Masters and Impressionist paintings to teddy bears, as well as ballet slippers belonging to the late Rudolf Nureyev.

Recent prices in the sale room do not necessarily equate to recent investment returns in the future. It is also very difficult to make a comparison with other forms of investment in deciding whether your money is better in art, than in a *Charlie Cliff* tea



The Lady Penelope puppet from television's *Thunderbirds* fetched £30,000 for her co-creator last year

beats to train sets continue to be eagerly sought after. The sound of jaws dropping could be heard at Phillips, the London auctioneers, last year as Sylvia Anderson, co-creator with her husband, Gerry, of the *Thunderbirds* puppets, sold her Lady Penelope puppet for £30,000.

Not all toys fetch such prices. "A large part of our business is selling Dinky Toys to collectors," says Hugo Marsh, head of toys at Christie's. "In good condition and with their boxes these might sell for around £25-£30 or could be worth over £1,000." Last year a pre-war Dinky Toy Benetton delivery van made £12,500.

Highlights among Christie's toy sales in 1995 include a large collection of very desirable Märklin model trains in May, a big Dinky Toy sale in April, and Hornby's *OO* coming down the line in October. Among more modern toys, Mr Marsh rates

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Chance for TSB customers to share in merger

MORE than one million Trustee Savings Bank shareholders with a stake in the original bank have been given the opportunity to take part in a new share dividend scheme, in the wake of its £13.6 billion merger with Lloyds Bank.

While existing Lloyds Bank shares have been cancelled, TSB share certificates remain valid and TSB shareholders have already received a special cash dividend of 68.3p per share.

For the first time, TSB customers will be able to take part in a share dividend scheme that has always been available to shareholders in Lloyds Bank. Below we answer some of the relevant questions.

- Q What is the share dividend scheme?**
A The opportunity to receive new ordinary shares in Lloyds TSB Group instead of cash dividends. The offer is available to all United Kingdom shareholders and participants in staff profit-sharing schemes whose shares are held in trust.
- Q How long do I have to decide?**
A The first cut-off date for shareholders who want to take shares instead of cash dividends is April 2, but shareholders can change their mind at any time. Applications must be made at least 28 days before the dividend date to be eligible for that dividend. The scheme will start with the final dividend for 1995, which will be paid on May 1, 1996. Anyone who buys extra shares after they have completed the form will receive shares instead of cash dividends on their entire holding.
- Q What are the benefits of taking new shares in the company?**
A There are two main benefits for shareholders who opt for new shares over a cash dividend. Under the new scheme, shareholders will be able to increase

GUIDELINES

THE *Antiques Trade Gazette*, published weekly, provides a comprehensive guide to the salerooms, regional fairs and shows, annual subscription £22. 0171 929 4265.

Guides: Regularly updated guides such as Miller's, also the *Lyde* guide, provide details on pricing and identification. LAPADA 0171 233 5511. BADA 0171 559 4129.

Sales and valuations details: Christie's 0171 551 7411; Sotheby's 0171 463 9999; Phillips 0171 629 6602; Bonham's 0171 303 3061; Hattersley 01483 427577.

The jury's still out on Hamilton Life's six-year bond

Temptation of a market-linked guaranteed bond

These days, when building society deposit accounts are paying paltry interest, an unknown life assurance company is tempting savers with a more generous-than-usual guaranteed-growth bond. Give a £5,000 minimum to Hamilton Life and you are guaranteed 50 per cent capital growth over six years, free of basic-rate tax. There are further possible returns if the FT-SE 100 index performs well.

For a start you may not earn the full value of any market rises. Hamilton Life says it will give 50 per cent of the actual growth in the FT-SE 100 index, calculated as a percentage of your earnings. Also bonds do not pay the underlying shares' dividends. The plans are inflexible, so if you need your capital or the market falls and you could be earning more elsewhere, you can only surrender your policy at a harsh penalty. And the return from bonds at the end of their term is paid after deduction of basic-rate income tax, which cannot be reclaimed by non-taxpayers while higher-rate taxpayers face an extra tax charge.

If you want the comfort of a guaranteed return of your Bonds tax threat..... 35

capital, ask an independent adviser for advice. Marks out of ten for the Hamilton Life guaranteed growth bond? "If it was another, well-known company, I would give it a high mark," said Amanda Davidson, "but since I don't know this lot, six out of ten."

SARAH JONES

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Take the flotation money and run

Patience is the principal skill required to play the building society flotation lottery which is a game of delayed gratification. Having spotted a society itching to shed its mutual status, you must be prepared to wait for your cash or free shares. This period of anticipation will not necessarily be a relaxing experience.

For 18 months or more, your cash will sit in the society, anticipating stock market debut day. You know that withdrawing any cash could put your payout at risk. Under the terms of both the Halifax and Woolwich conversion schemes, the size of the free share entitlement will be based on the lowest balance in the account between the first qualifying date, and a second later date.

In a fair-minded decision that shows the society's determination to retain the long-term goodwill of its customers, the Halifax has said that it will reveal this second date some time in advance to allow members to replenish their balances. The Woolwich, however, reserves the right to announce the second qualifying day retrospectively. As several readers have remarked, this word has seldom sounded so menacing. The Woolwich, once renowned for being Equitable, both in name and deed, should be careful about its reputation.

Knowing that their members are held captive, societies can afford to be a lot less competitive about savings rates, as National & Provincial savers can attest. Next week, the Woolwich lowers its rates



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

by an average of 0.4 per cent. But its savers will not be as offended as those of the Alliance & Leicester whose flotation announcement is imminent.

This week the society launched a Prime 90 Deposit Account. Those who invest will not be able to share in the society's flotation largesse. But, by way of compensation, they will be earning far more generous rates than the hapless

holders of A&L share accounts who are paying for their flotation expectations in lower returns. For example, the new and shiny Prime 90 Deposit pays 6.60 per cent on amounts between £10,000 and £24,999. This compares with 4.05 per cent on the Bonus 90, a share account. The differences are less marked, but significant for smaller amounts.

Without putting in jeopardy their share entitlement, there

is little that Bonus 90 savers and others who have seen their returns become uncompetitive, can do to complain about such anomalies. Except, perhaps, to regard the whole thing as a nothing more than a game and take their money elsewhere, as soon as they have picked up the flotation prize.

Why so mean?

THE 1995 Budget contained two concessions for savers, a cut to 20 per cent in the tax on savings and a new lower age limit of 60 for National Savings Pensioners Bond.

At the time, the various National Savings schemes with their competitive returns were being promoted as never before. Three months later, things look

rather different. But then consistency has never been the hallmark of National Savings' policy.

Rates on the whole National Savings range have been cut. Although elderly savers who are currently switching from Income Bonds into Pensioners Bonds will still be able to earn the old rate of 7.5 per cent, others will earn the new rate of 7 per cent. National Savings obviously hopes that the new lower tax will make the return look attractive, despite the cut.

Following the decrease, Pensioners Bonds are still a reasonable investment, but those about to celebrate their 60th birthday will not be much impressed with the Chancellor's rather mean present.

What price loyalty to societies?

Anne Ashworth on the dilemma of pleasing both City and savers

As the Alliance & Leicester Building Society prepares to reveal the details of its £3 billion stock market flotation, attention has focused on its plan to produce a customer loyalty scheme in March. These ever-more popular packages reward customers with cheaper mortgages and improved savers' rates. Following the examples of the Yorkshire and Bradford & Bingley, the Britannia and the Nationwide will also launch loyalty schemes.

The Alliance & Leicester's decision has caused comment in the industry because such schemes are associated with societies determined to retain their mutual status.

Yesterday, senior figures questioned how the Alliance & Leicester could make itself attractive to City investors and still return profits to customers.

This is the basis of both the Bradford & Bingley loyalty scheme, revealed this week, and the Yorkshire scheme, which was announced in October 1995.

One observer commented: "The Bradford & Bingley is giving back £50 million of its profits. What's the City going to think about the Alliance & Leicester showing a fall in its 1996 profits because it has given back a third to its members?"

If the Alliance & Leicester decides, as predicted by some, to make December 31, 1995, the cut-off date for its flotation, this would also be the source

of controversy. Only those who were qualifying members of the society at that date and remained so until flotation would benefit from the free share distribution. Qualifying members are borrowers, owing not less than £100 and holders of share accounts with balances of not less than £100.

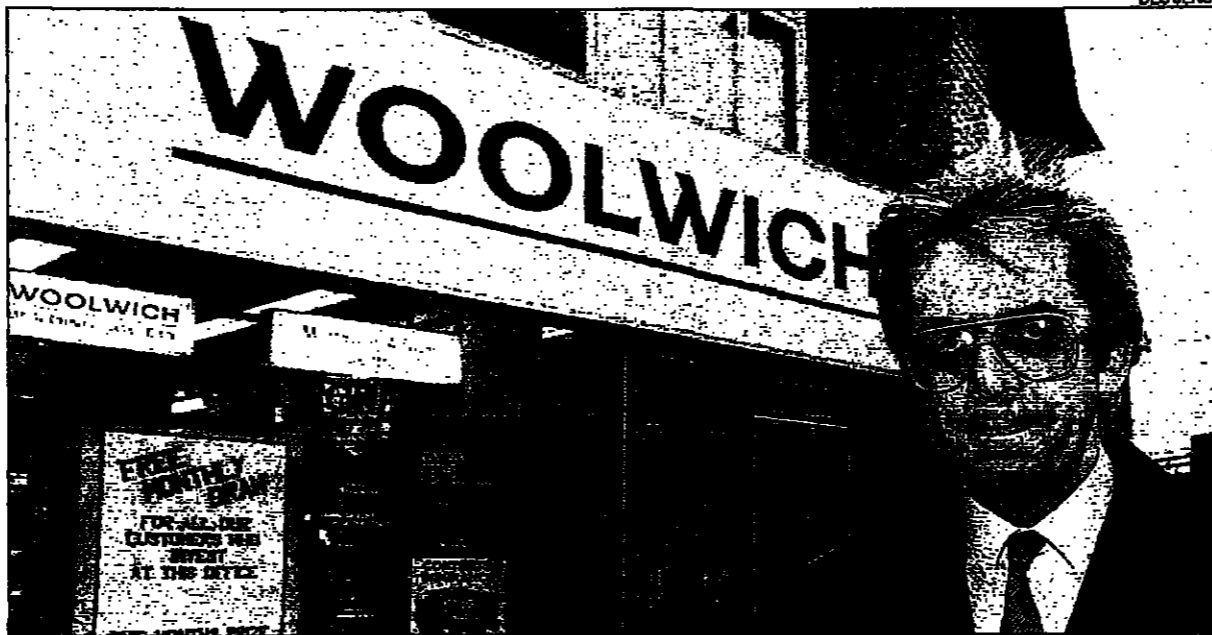
The Woolwich's decision to fix December 31 as its cut-off date has caused a furor. The aggrieved savers include not only the 30,000 who opened accounts in early January before the announcement of the Woolwich flotation, but also thousands of long standing customers. It was possible to open certain Alliance & Leicester share accounts until January 16.

The Times last week revealed the growing sense of grievance among customers who had been with the Woolwich for decades but would not benefit from the share bonanza.

Their numbers included elderly people forced to close their accounts in early January because their convenient local branch had been shut down and current account holders who are not entitled to free shares, as they have deposit-type, not share accounts.

Although the Woolwich says that it can do nothing for these groups, the discontent remains.

Among those who have contacted Weekend Money this week are Paul Boddham-Whetham, a project director



Paul Boddham-Whetham, 27 years a Woolwich saver, failed what he believes to be an unfair qualification test

with a construction company and 27 years a Woolwich saver.

During 1995, the average balance on his Woolwich Prime Gold account (a share account) was £1,167, the average balance on his Cashbase Current account, £1,572. At the end of December, however, the Prime Gold balance fell to £14, as Mr Boddham-Whetham had transferred cash over to the Cashbase account.

Mr Boddham-Whetham, who lives in Berkhamsted, Berkshire, argues that qualification for the flotation benefits should be based on average balance over a 12-month period.

He commented: "Those carpetbaggers who rushed to invest in the last few weeks of 1995 are resting easy in the knowledge that their skilful gambler's timing may earn them a tidy profit in shares."

David Adams, a reader from Solihull, who has also been a Woolwich saver for more than 20 years, emptied his Prime Gold account at the very end of December, leaving just £14. Before the transfer, there was £730 in the account.

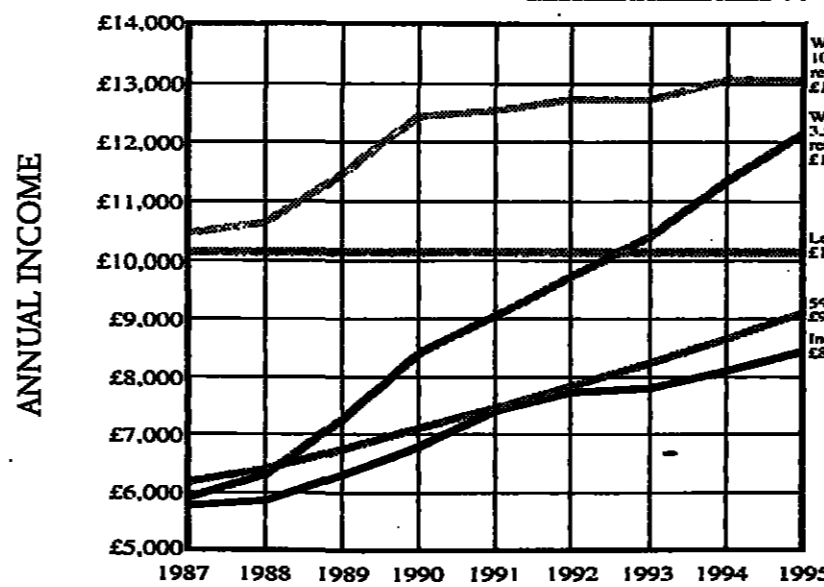
Mr Adams intends to form a protest committee to seek to overturn the Woolwich ruling.

OVER 50?

The wrong choice at the wrong time could reduce your retirement income by up to one third.

FT Quarterly Review of Personal Finance 27 - 28 January 1995

ISN'T IT WORTH SHOPPING AROUND FOR YOUR ANNUITY?



The figures in the above graph are based on a purchase price of £100,000 on 1 April 1987. The form of annuity is a joint-life annuity - male and female aged 60, payable monthly in advance, not reducing on first death.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

You may not realise that when you take the proceeds of your pension fund you face a critical decision: which investment route and which company can provide the best possible income for you to live comfortably for the rest of your life.

There is a range of different options available. Which one is appropriate for you will depend on your individual circumstances. Some will be offered by your existing pension provider, some may not.

So, we invite anyone approaching retirement with a personal pension fund to examine our range of retirement income plans and compare it with those on offer from other companies.

After all, having spent many years carefully

selecting your plan provider and contributing regularly to build up your fund, it would be a mistake not to investigate all the options before making a once and for all decision. Turning your pension fund into income is compulsory and your choice irrevocable.

Please shop around before you make your final decision, but especially take a look at what The Equitable has to offer - there are no second chances.

The above graph is designed to show what happened to four identical people and how different their outcomes have become. The graph is not designed to favour one route over another - everybody's personal circumstances are different - that's why you should seek advice about the most

appropriate route. Furthermore, you should appreciate that the initial levels of annuities and their relative positions would vary depending on the date of purchase.

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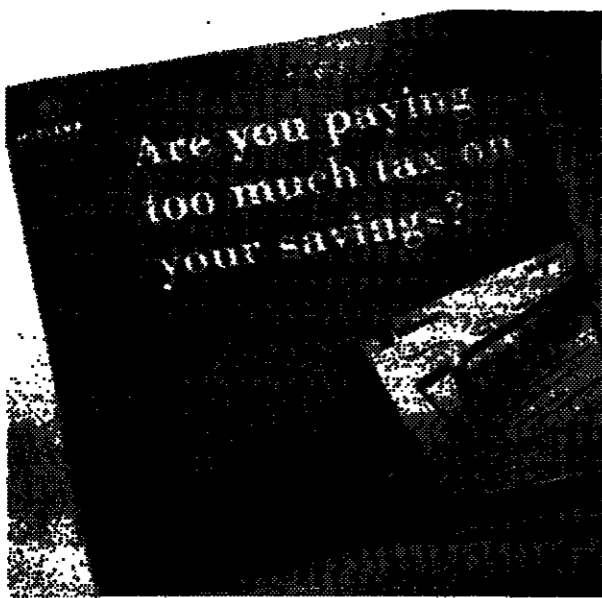
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Simple question. But what's the answer?

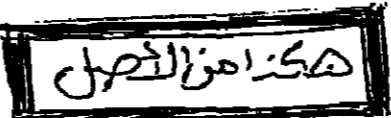
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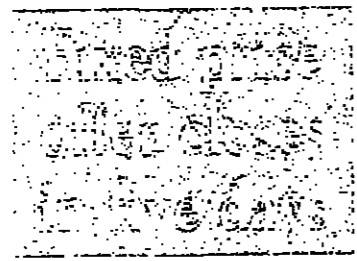
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Invest now for the future

Morag Preston
on the pension options of offer to the young

The thought that, for every five years you delay starting a pension, the cost can increase by as much as 50 per cent, should convince anyone in their early twenties to act on Nike's advice and "Just do it". The prediction that half the people in this country will retire on less than 50 per cent of their salary is another statistic that financial adviser Fiona Price uses to encourage her younger clients to start thinking about their pension.

"Once they have at least three months' income tucked away in the building society, or more if they are self-employed, they should start looking at the very long-term and pension planning," says Ms Price. "It costs so much to catch up later."

In an already crowded market, with several hundred pension providers, anyone in their twenties who has sufficient income should talk to a financial adviser before locking themselves into a complicated scheme. Financial advisers can weigh up the costs of pension plans, discuss the financial strengths of the provider, and the flexibility of the pension. Most encourage younger savers to take advantage of company pension schemes, whereby employers contribute towards the pensions.

Craig Foreman, a senior manager at Touche Ross, says: "An employer's scheme has to be really awful for you to turn it down. It's something for nothing." However, he also points out that problems may occur should you want to change your job. "Only join in if you're going to be more than two years at your job," Ms Price, on the other hand, says: "Always go for it rather than not."

Not every company offers an in-house pension scheme, and they can vary enormously. Some employers set a date by which you must join, while others fix a minimum age limit as low as 25 or 30. In these cases, first-time earners are encour-



Pension planning is a vital first course for young people starting their career

aged to make provisions for themselves. Amanda Davidson, a partner at Holden Meehan, says: "When picking a provider, look for a pension that can cope with any changes should you change your career, and one that won't clobber you with charges if you do."

The majority of Ms Davidson's younger clients contribute between £50 and £100 each month into a personal pension. She recommends NPI and Standard Life because "there is no penalty for retiring early, and it has good early transfer values". She also recommends Scottish Equitable because "they manage your money in a more adventurous way" and Friends Provident Stewardship Fund as a "green" option. Philippa Gee, at Gee & Company, says: "If there is no employer's scheme, you should start looking at

contracting out of Serps straight away as long as your earnings are approaching at least £10,000."

John Eaton of Lupton Fawcett is sceptical of traditional pension plans. He says: "It's only a savings scheme with tax advantages. Your money is locked up until you're 50 and, at the far end of the day, you won't get the original capital back." Mr Eaton recommends a savings plan which includes Tessa, Pepp and investment trusts, with easy access to capital or an investment trust pension savings plan. He says: "Their charging structures are more competitive and they have a better investment potential." In June last year, Foreign & Colonial introduced a flexible Low Start Option for anyone who wants to start their pension early but can contribute only £50 monthly.

WINNERS & LOSERS

Car buyer beware

MOTORISTS who buy a second-hand car unaware that it is still on a hire or lease agreement could end up having the vehicle seized and losing thousands of pounds and contesting the case in court (Marianne Curphey writes). A Times reader, Demetris Kourdoulos, ran into problems when he bought a Fiat Uno three years ago. Less than a year later, the man who had sold it to him died.

Three months after the seller's death, Mr Kourdoulos was contacted by Motability Finance Ltd, a London company with a contract motor fleet of 125,000 and which specialises in hiring cars to disabled people. It said it intended to repossess the car, the first Mr Kourdoulos knew of a lease agreement under which the user returns the vehicle to the hire company at the end of the term. The vehicle registration document contained the details of the hirer (the seller) but nothing on the true owners. A court case ruled in favour of the finance company.

Motability Finance say Mr Kourdoulos should have made a check on the car to ensure there were no payments outstanding. The car should never have been sold to him, because the seller would not have legally owned it.

Phil Howells, a legal expert with the Consumers' Association, said Mr Kourdoulos' only recourse would be to sue the estate of the seller.

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Marianne Curphey on the case for distribution of the huge reserves amassed?

Societies could return millions

Britain's biggest building societies could pass on tens of millions of pounds of profits to their members by cutting mortgage rates and boosting savings but are reluctant to do so, it was claimed this week.

Homeowners could enjoy the benefit of a full 1 per cent cut in mortgage rates immediately if societies chose to redistribute their huge cash reserves now.

But despite talk of a "mortgage war" — as leading societies reduce rates to steal each other's custom — many are still sitting on huge profits which are not ploughed back to their members, according to Rob Thomas, housing analyst with UBS.

This week the Britannia and the Birmingham Midlands said savings and mortgage rates were "under review" after the Bradford & Bingley's 0.25 per cent mortgage cut on Wednesday. The Britannia said it was looking at giving "loyalty incentives, bonuses and rewards" to members. The Nationwide has hinted it intends to improve rates for savers and borrowers in April, the end of its financial year.

Mr Thomas says the 20 largest building societies will have made £3.7 billion pre-tax profit in 1995, an increase of 15 per cent on the previous year. They could easily afford to cut rates by 1 per cent, which would cost them two thirds of their profits but would win the goodwill of their customers by putting an extra £40 a month into the pocket of a homeowner with a £50,000 endowment mortgage.

Mr Thomas says: "The societies only need to retain a third of their profits. By giving away two thirds of profits they would lower their price in the market and make it easier for them to stay mutual. But they

forgot about mutuality in the 1980s when they made huge profits which they are now just sitting on."

Brian Davis, chief executive of the Nationwide, said: "We have a similar philosophy to the Bradford & Bingley. The benefits of being a mutual is that we have only customers, and not shareholders, to satisfy. But it is a very tough market, and it is going to get even more competitive."

Homeowners could enjoy an immediate 1 per cent reduction in mortgage rates

The move by Bradford & Bingley, the sixth largest society, is an attempt to show that mutuality — where a society is owned by its members, rather than by shareholders — offers tangible long-term value.

The mortgage rate cut and the freezing of savings rates in a climate of cuts in bank base rates will, according to Dr John Wriglesworth, Bradford & Bingley's head of strategy,

return profits of at least £50 million a year to savers and borrowers and account for a third of reported pre-tax profit in 1994.

He defended the decision not to pay more, or earlier, by saying that cash reserves need to be kept high to satisfy regulators and credit rating agencies.

He added: "After building up strong cash reserves in the 1980s we do not now need to sit on so much profit and we believe there is room to distribute further benefits to customers. We plan, though we cannot promise, to expand the benefits we offer our members."

The Yorkshire, which insists it is committed to mutuality, has already said it will spend an estimated £20 million of profits in 1996 giving more competitive rates to savers and borrowers. After the housing market crashed in 1989 and demand for mortgage products slumped, building societies resorted to "churning" — stealing each other's custom — in order to sell new mortgages. The Bradford & Bingley believes its latest move will help to retain customers.

Lloyds lures free-spenders with low-rate card

Lloyds, the first of the high street banks to impose a fee for its credit card, is attempting to attract free-spenders from its rivals by offering a card with no fee, for one year only. Lloyds will offer a temporarily low interest rate. Thereafter, those with lower balances will pay a slightly higher rate of interest.

The move could mean other card companies, attempting to appeal to those who do not clear their balance each

month, may have to cut their fees.

From Monday, Lloyds Bank Mastercard will be available at high street branches, alongside its Access and Gold cards. Regardless of their balance, Lloyds Bank Mastercard customers will pay 1.25 per cent a month, or 16 per cent APR, for the first six months.

Customers who have more than £2,000 on their accounts will continue to pay the same rate thereafter, while those with £1,000-£2,000 will be



The bigger building societies may no longer be deemed Scrooges by their members

charged 1.57 per cent per month or 20.5 per cent APR. Those with less than £1,000 will be charged 1.62 per cent per month or 21.2 per cent APR.

Jan Lindsey, executive banking director at Flemings/Save & Prosper, said: "Their rates are generally in line with everyone else. They're trying to encourage customers with a lot of money to switch to their card, but they might as well switch to one like Flemings, charging 0.94 per cent or Royal Bank of Scotland Mastercard charging 1.14 per cent." He added: "Neither Flemings nor Royal Bank of Scotland Mastercard gives an interest-free period, but that's only of relevance if you're sending your account in full."

Mr Lindsey said the interest rate on Lloyds Bank Mastercard is higher than its Access card for customers borrowing £1,000 or less. Interest rates are the same on both cards for those borrowing between £1,000-£2,000. He added the only benefits are for those borrowing more than £2,000. "Lloyds are being protective. They need to offer this rate in case they lose customers."

On waiving the £10 annual fee, he said: "That might be something Flemings could be forced into doing. On average, people spend £1,500 a year on credit cards. If they each spend an extra £300, Lloyds makes an extra £5 a year."

Sandy Wanstall, credit card manager at Lloyds said: "Customers also have the opportu-

nity never to pay a fee if they spend £1,800 a year or £150 a month — which is only three trips to their local supermarket. They can try it out for six months free to see how it fits their lifestyle and spending pattern."

Every time customers use their Lloyds Bank Mastercard they will be automatically entered into a monthly prize draw. The more transactions they make, the greater their chance of winning. Among the prizes are 1,000 Boots gift vouchers, five £1,000 Thomas Cook holiday vouchers and a Rover 214Si car. Customers will also be entered into a £500 daily draw on completing their application forms.

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MASTERCARD UK CREDIT CARD INTEREST RATES

	pm %	APR pchases	APR cash	Cost of borrowing £1,000 pa
Flemings/Save&Prosper (£12 annual fee)	1.00	14.6	16.1	£138.80
Flemings/Save&Prosper* "Base Rate option"	0.94	11.8	14.8	£118.40
Bank of Scotland (£10 annual fee)	1.57	21.7	23.6	£215.55
Barclays Mastercard (£10 annual fee)	1.63	22.6	24.5	£224.12
Clydesdale Access (£10 annual fee)	1.68	23.5	25.5	£232.75
The Express Card (£12 annual fee)	1.00	14.8	16.1	£138.80
General Motors (MFS Bank) (£10 annual fee)	1.60	20.9	22.9	£209.83
Lloyds Access (£12 annual fee)	1.57	22.0	23.9	£217.55
Lloyds Mastercard (£10 annual fee)				
Under £1,000	1.62	21.2	22.4	£222.69
£1,000	1.57	20.5	21.1	£215.55
£2,000*	1.25	18.0	18.25/160.00	
Midland Access (£12 annual fee)	1.59	22.3	24.2	£220.40
Natwest Access (£12 annual fee)	1.67	23.4	25.3	£231.87
Royal Bank of Scotland Access (£10 annual fee)	1.67	23.2	25.2	£229.87
Royal Bank of Scotland Mastercard* (£10 annual fee)	1.14	14.5	14.5	£145.71
The Sun Card (£12 annual fee)	1.53	21.9	21.9	£211.80
TSB Mastercard Under £1,000	1.67	21.9	22.5	£219.87
£1,000*	1.60	20.9	21.6	£209.83
£3,000*	1.38	17.9	18.7	£179.70

*No interest free period; *Additional fee of £8 for second card issued; *Annual fee waived for the first year and thereafter if more than £1,000 per annum; *Annual fee waived for the first year and thereafter if more than £1,800 per annum

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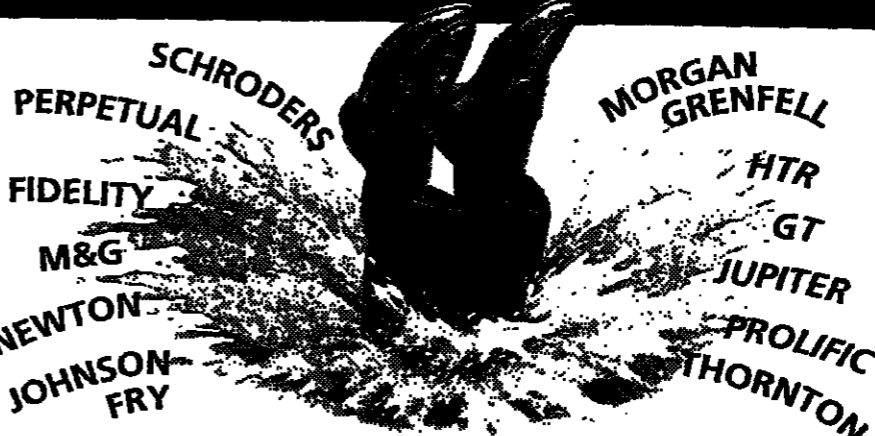
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Tax threat takes shine off guaranteed-income bonds

A Budget tax cut, reducing the rate of income tax on building society and bank deposits from 25 per cent to 20 per cent threatens the future of guaranteed-income bonds, one of the most popular investments of the Nineties. Around £340 million was invested in these bonds last year alone.

The change to the taxation regime from April will make many of the guaranteed-income bonds on the market less attractive than the equivalent National Savings scheme.

Guaranteed income bonds pay a fixed level of income for a fixed term, guaranteeing to pay back the capital at the end of the term. Basic-rate taxpayers do not have to pay tax on the income from the bond, because the insurance fund has already paid tax. Higher-rate tax payers only pay tax at the marginal rate — 15 per cent.

Many bonds offer a growth option, which means the income can be reinvested. Rates of return on some of the guaranteed income bonds range from 4.75 to 6.7 per cent depending on the length of time you wish to keep your money tied up for. The higher the rate, the longer you are locked in. National Savings has a number of comparable products. But unlike guaranteed income bonds, these will be taxed from April at the new 20 per cent savings rate. For example, the five-year Capital Bonds offered a fixed interest rate of 7.75 per cent, if the bond is held to maturity. After the deduction of tax at 20 per cent, this will be worth 6.2 per cent. This week this bond was replaced by a new capital bond which only pays a fixed

Caroline Merrell says that National Savings bonds will return to favour

interest of 6.65 per cent, making it more important for investors to hold on to their 7.75 per cent bonds until the end of the term. If you want to cash in your certificates before the end, you will receive a lower rate.

National Savings also offers a Pensioners Bond which, after another Budget change, can be bought by anyone over 60. This used to pay 7.5 per cent (6 per cent net of the new tax rate), but after this week's change will only pay 7 per cent (5.6 per cent net).

Charles Levett-Scrivener, director of Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, said: "We compared the rates on GTBs with National Savings investments and found the gap between the two has narrowed as a result of the introduction of the savings tax. Net returns on National Savings have been boosted as a result of the Budget, while rates on GTBs have not changed."

He added that the Government was making it more difficult for companies to offer guaranteed-income bonds with high rates of income. "Now only those companies who have more expenses than

income are able to offer competitive rates," he said.

This peculiarity of life office taxation means only some of the smaller companies such as Hamilton Life (a subsidiary of US company HFC), Pinnacle Insurance, Consolidated Financial and Premium Life can offer competitive products — a fact which marginally raises the risk. Mr Levett-Scrivener added that the Government was reviewing the tax treatment of life assurance policies, and it was clear it did not like way companies exploited their expenses to be able to offer guaranteed bonds. He believes it plans to outlaw them except those already in existence.

One other way of achieving high levels of guaranteed income is through investing in Government securities. Five-year gilts are now yielding about 6.4 per cent. But income from gilts is taxable, which can make the eventual returns lower than other forms of fixed-interest security. Falls in interest rates over the past few years means many gilts are trading at a far higher price than their issue price, which in turn means that if they are held to maturity, taxpayers could end up losing a lot of their returns in tax.

Guaranteed investments are popular forms of saving. Sun Alliance this week launched a corporate bond Pep that guarantees the capital if it is held for more than six years. The Pep is currently yielding 6.95 per cent income.

For a guide to insurance bonds: Towry Law, Baylis House, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, Berks SL1 3PB. (01753 554400).

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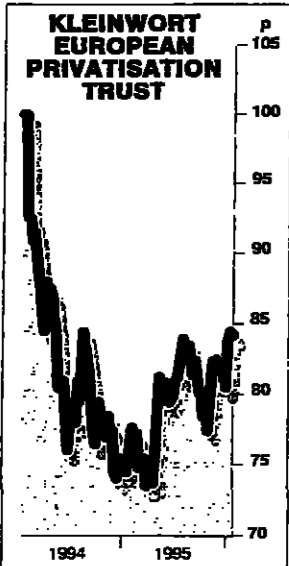
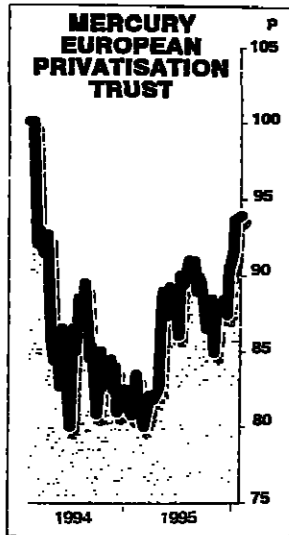
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Roll up for the big buyback as Euro shares hit buffers

Kleinwort Benson is considering buying back shares in its European Privatisation Investment Trust in a move to placate angry investors who have seen the value of their shares fall to an 11 per cent discount since the fund was launched.

Simon White, a director of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, said: "We believe that the solution to the problem of the discount is to try and increase demand for the shares." The company was trying to do this, he added, through a series of roadshows for intermediaries, while watching the effectiveness of a rival share buyback scheme in narrowing the discount.

Just before Christmas, Mercury Asset Management announced that it intended to buy back shares in its European Privatisation Trust to reduce a discount that was then running at 19 per cent. A discount means that the shares in a trust are trading at less than their net asset value.

Even if the managers of the trust invest wisely and the net asset value increases, shareholders who want to sell will



be unable to reap the rewards of good fund management because they will not be able to get what the shares are worth. Discounts are generated when there are more sellers of shares than buyers.

Mercury this week finalised the details of its share buyback scheme, which involves the trust issuing preference shares to raise money to buy back shares. The shares are then cancelled out, which results in a narrowing of the discount and an increase in net asset value.

Lough Callahan, Mercury fund manager, blamed the creation of a big discount in the fund on a change of market sentiment at the beginning of 1994, when the trust was unveiled.

Mercury's fund attracted about £500 million from 70,000 investors, who were sold on the idea of buying

shares in newly privatised companies in Europe.

They were aiming to achieve some of the gains experienced by those investing in privatised companies in the UK, but their hopes have so far failed to materialise. The situation was not helped by economic woes and private-sector strikes in France.

Mr Callahan said: "The US increased interest rates at the beginning of 1994, which had an effect on confidence."

Many people sold their shares immediately after launch, which generated the discount. Kleinwort Benson attracted a similar amount of money from around 72,000 investors. The share price of the KB trust is now 89p, compared with 100p at launch, while the share price of the Mercury is now 98p, compared with the 100p at launch.

The net asset value of the Kleinwort trust has increased to 100.5p since launch, while the net asset value of the Mercury trust has increased to 113p. Even though Mercury's share buyback has not yet



Striking private-sector workers in France have contributed to a lack of faith in European privatisation stocks

started, the discount has narrowed dramatically, from 19 to 15 per cent, since the programme was announced. Mr Callahan believes that it will take between 12 and 16 months before it is cleared.

As well as hoping to give more value to shareholders

through the buyback, the investment house is hoping to increase interest in the shares through a series of roadshows and by an offer on its savings plan.

Mr Callahan believes that this year should be a good one for European shares. Last year

proved to be a difficult one for European fund managers looking for value in privatisation stocks.

Many of the newest privatisations were in countries suffering the effects of currency weakness, affecting in turn the net asset value of

the fund. Mr Callahan said that some of the shares in newly privatised European companies had fallen immediately after privatisation — an event which is almost unheard of in the UK.

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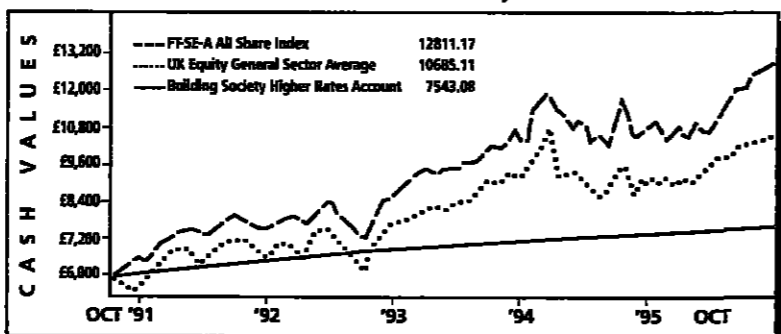
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Treasury to cut back on Ernie's nice little earners

THE £1 million Premium Bond jackpot this week survived a round of Treasury cost cutting — but at the expense of the growing number of small payouts of £50 and £100.

From May 1, National Savings will reduce the number of smaller prizes, increase the number of larger prizes and limit the overall number of prizes to 350,000 a month. The interest rate on Premium Bond investments, used to fund prize money, will be cut from 5.2 per cent to 4.75 per cent, effectively cutting the amount of money available to pay out as prizes.

There will be no cap on the amount of money going into the fund, but National Savings will no longer allocate a prize for every £15,000 invested, so the odds on winning a prize will not be fixed. Based on last month's sales figures, the odds will lengthen from 15,000:1 to 17,200:1.

National Savings argues that it has been a victim of its own success since the £1 million jackpot was introduced in April 1994. Sales of Premium Bonds have soared from £619 million in 1993 to £1.8 billion in 1995.

There was no set number of smaller prizes, which grew as Premium Bond investments grew, pushing up costs. Research from customers also

showed they wanted more medium and larger prizes. National Savings has divided the Premium Bond fund into bands. Of the fund, 10 per cent will be paid out in prizes of £5,000 to £1 million, compared with 6.6 per cent last month. A further 15 per cent will be paid out in prizes of between £500 and £1,000 (12.7 per cent). The remainder will be used for prizes of £50 and £100 (80 per cent).

Other National Savings accounts have also felt the Treasury axe. From yesterday, fixed-rate accounts were replaced with new issues at lower rates, while rates on variable rate accounts fell.

Rates across the board have fallen between 0.25 per cent and 1.1 per cent on Children's Bonus Bonds and Capital bonds, the hardest hit. Pensioners over 60 whose applications for Guaranteed Income bonds were received by Thursday this week, will still qualify for the higher rate of 7.5 per cent gross. Others will get 7 per cent.

We apologise to readers of the A to Z of Personal Finance, which went to press just before the National Savings cuts were announced. The figures quoted on page nine contain the old rates.

SARA MCCONNELL

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*Source: Money Management Surveys of 10 year with-profit endowment policies 1974-1995

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Caroline Merrell on the trail of more Tessa troubles

Tessa shortfall upsets Halifax savers

How we reported the controversy surrounding poor returns on Tessas with the Halifax Building Society

Certificate delay causes savers pain

A £21 billion worth of tax exempt special savings accounts reach the end of their five-year term, the rates on new accounts are not the only thing occupying the minds of Tessa holders.

After controversy over the differing payouts given to Halifax Tessa holders who opened their accounts in January 1991, it is now becoming clear that the maturity certificates, which savers need from their bank or building society if they want to reinvest their funds elsewhere, are being delayed.

Some savers believe that, in a fiercely competitive market, banks and building societies are holding up the certificates, in an attempt to dissuade customers from taking their cash elsewhere.

These delays could mean that savers miss out on some of the better deals available in the market.

Some of the fixed-rate accounts are limited to the number of savers they can accept. For example, after the cut in base rates, some institutions are now lowering the rates on their fixed-rate

Tessas. The West Bromwich Building Society this week reduced the rate of its fixed-rate Follow-up Tessa from 7.55 per cent to 7.35 per cent.

For Elsie Webb, a pensioner from Reading, the dilatory behaviour of Barclays in delivering her maturity certificate was the final straw in a worsening relationship with the bank.

Mrs Webb said: "My Barclays Tessa matured on January 10. I returned an instruction form requesting the money should be paid into a new Abbey National Tessa, and the details and certificate be sent to my home address."

"I got in touch with Barclays again on January 19, and received a statement by second class post on January 20, but not a certificate of maturity."

She finally received her maturity certificate on January 22, 12 days after her Tessa matured.

She said: "I got so mad with Barclays, I shall just be keeping a small current account with them from now on."

Barclays, at first, insisted it sent out all maturity certifi-



Waiting game: Elsie Webb lost patience with Barclays

icates by first class post immediately, but then admitted they had made an administrative error.

A spokeswoman said: "We wrote to all our customers back in October asking what they intended to do when their Tessas matured. We were overwhelmed by the response and there were further delays over Christmas."

The Halifax also suffered a glitch with some of its maturity certificates earlier this month, when computer problems caused delays.

The Halifax claimed that the problem was sorted out quickly and that it had complied with the Inland Revenue rules, which state that maturity certificates have to be sent out within 30 days.

Second wave is linked to market growth

The second wave of tax exempt special savings accounts also includes a group of accounts that paradoxically give savers some exposure to the stock market. Companies offering these accounts include HSBC, the fund manager, the Birmingham Midshires Building Society, the Bristol & West Building Society and Lloyds Bank. The accounts pay a minimum interest rate, or a return linked to the rise in the UK stock market over a five-year period, whichever is the greater.

Equity-linked Tessas are aimed at investors prepared to take a little more risk with their money over the next five years. If interest rates remain at their current low levels, the maximum return

that could be achieved on these accounts is higher than the maximum which could be achieved from a more conventional account. But if inflation and interest rates rise, the situation may be reversed.

HSBC's Tessa, which has a £3,000 minimum, will give a guaranteed 5 per cent interest rate. Investors will also get a 1 per cent maturity bonus for each 1 per cent the FT-SE 100 rises above 25 per cent over the five years. The bonuses stop if the index rises by more than 30 per cent, which makes the maximum amount of interest 9.16 per cent, with a minimum of 5 per cent. Alan Gadd, HSBC managing director, said 1.6 million people had registered an interest. "Many building

societies were assuming their savers would just reinvest," he said.

The Birmingham Midshires is offering two Tessas, one with a minimum 5.5 per cent interest rate, the other with 4 per cent. It will also give savers an extra bonus equal to the rise in FT-SE over the five years, if it is greater than the minimum interest. The Bristol & West offers savers the greater of an annual interest rate of 4 per cent plus 1 per cent of the first year's investment, or the rise in the index, while Lloyds offers a minimum interest of 5 per cent, or the percentage rise in the index which ever is greater.

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56	£7,131.90
57	£6,779.21
58	£6,426.52
59	£6,073.83
60	£5,721.14
61	£5,368.45
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66	£3,605.00
67	£3,252.31
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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Payment due for power shares

THE second instalment deadline on the partly paid National Power and Powergen shares is 3pm on Tuesday, February 6. This means that all cheques must be received by the registrars by Thursday, February 1. One and a half million payment notices have been posted in respect of all current holdings, representing an instalment value of £1.1 billion. Shareholders who took up the Government's offer to buy in March 1995 must respond to these payment notices to retain the right to their shares as well as any future dividends on them. The National Power helpline is 01903 503 733, and PowerGen's is 017 975 192.

specialising in portfolio management, has published its directory of members for 1996. Each of Asim's 37 full members are profiled, complete with a check list of services offered and the level of funds under management. The directory also carries a section explaining how Crest, the new Stock Exchange settlement scheme, will affect private investors from July. For a free copy, call Asim on 01892 870655 or write to Asim, Chiddingstone Causeway, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8JX.

LIZANNE ROSE

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Teachers BS 0800 378669, Bristol & West BS 0800 303830, Skipton BS 01756 700511.

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Table with columns: Card type, Interest per month, APR%, Fee per annum. Includes Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024, Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616, Fritzzell Bank 0800 373191.

Table with columns: Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance, APR, Interest per month, APR%, Fee per annum. Includes Midland 0800 180180, Direct Line 0141 2489890, Abbey National 0845 545556.

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Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why bid, Why offer. Includes AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE, AEGON MUTUAL INVESTMENTS, AEGON LIFE INVESTMENTS.

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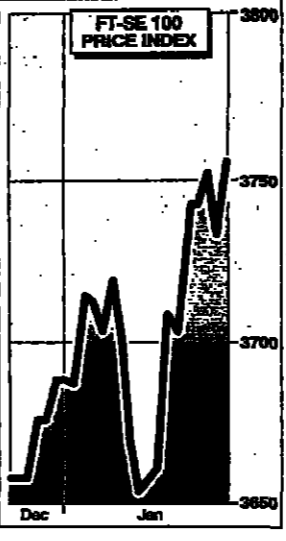
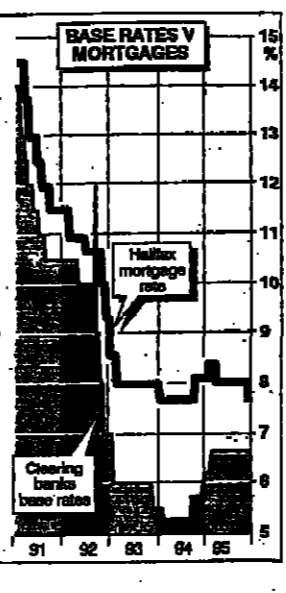


Table with columns: Gross rate, At tax rates 25%, 40%, Minimum investment, Notice, Contact. Includes Ordinary A/c, Investment A/c, Income Bond, First Opt Bond, 42nd Issue Cartha 5.85.

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Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Building Societies, Bristol & West, Bradford & Bingley, Skipton, Nat West.

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Building Societies, Bristol & West, Bradford & Bingley, Skipton, Nat West.

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Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why bid, Why offer. Includes AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE, AEGON MUTUAL INVESTMENTS, AEGON LIFE INVESTMENTS.

COMMERCIAL UNION

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why bid, Why offer. Includes AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE, AEGON MUTUAL INVESTMENTS, AEGON LIFE INVESTMENTS.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

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THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Waiting for account to be settled is Mid Southern water torture

From L. R. Hobbs. Sir, Have any of your readers come across the extraordinary policies employed by Mid Southern Water in settling accounts? Recently, I sold my property in Bracknell and wrote to the company on November 7, 1995 to ask them to provide a final account. I had telephoned earlier that day, but was told a written letter was required (all other facilities seemed happy with the telephone - electricity, council tax, etc). The company sent me a final account on November 16, indicating that they owed me a small amount. Cheques arrived from elsewhere, but there was nothing from Mid Southern Water. Eventually, on December 18, I telephoned to inquire about the moneys due to me. It transpired that I was required to write another letter to request release of the moneys. Nowhere did the final account indicate the need to do this. Does the company assume people will guess what is required, or are they hoping people will forget about it? However, I wrote again on December 18, a letter received

by the company on December 22. Still no moneys by January 4, so I telephoned again, twice. All local and central office customer service managers were unavailable, but I was able to speak to the head of finance. He told me the policy of requiring customers to write again for their money was company policy following their auditors' request, but that he would ensure my problems were dealt with ASAP. I am still waiting. I have learnt two things about Mid Southern Water which may be of service to other customers. First, that rendered accounts are not an occasion for payment - so, if the process works both ways, customers may presumably ignore the accounts they receive until the company writes a letter requesting release of the moneys due. Second, it is better to be in debt, rather than in credit with Mid Southern Water - you will wait forever for refunds. Yours faithfully, LESLIE R. HOBBS, Nether End Cottage, Blacksmiths Loke, Lound, Suffolk.



Denial that comes with bankruptcy

From Mr G. Peake. Sir, In last Saturday's Weekend Money, there was an article by Karen Zagor about the prospect of the Duchess of York being declared bankrupt. In the article, it was stated that "It is hard to imagine the Duchess of York ever being denied access to a bank account or credit card, even if her creditors do force her to declare bankruptcy". Surely, bankruptcy is supposed to mean this kind of denial? Perhaps if the Duchess of York were still, or would revert to being, mere Sarah Ferguson, she, as a declared bankrupt, would have the same experience as "tens of thousands of ordinary people". Yours sincerely, GEOFFREY PEAKE, 113 Mottram Old Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire.

Not all loyal building society members are rewarded

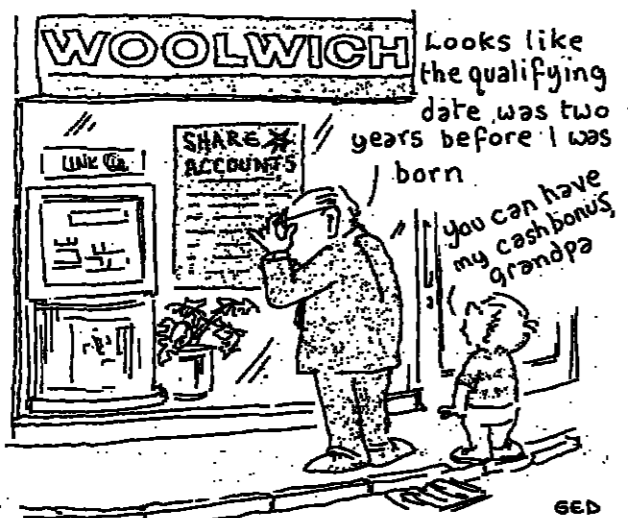
From Dr M. Crawford. Sir, The current practice among building societies seeking to lose their mutual status seems to be to regard as significant those share account holding members who have £100 or more in the relevant account on a specified date. The date is selected in such a way as to make it impossible for speculators to qualify. The latest example is the Woolwich, which has selected December 31 as its qualifying date. This practice can lead to what in my view is a serious

iniquity, as my wife's experience with the National & Provincial illustrates. She has for several years had an account with an average balance well in excess of £500. She would be regarded as a two-year account holder under the proposed terms of merger with Abbey National, apart from the fact that, two days before what turned out to be the qualifying date for that merger, she withdrew sufficient money to take the account below £100. As a result, she has no more standing with the society than someone who

Post waste for seller

From Mr L. Oakley. Sir, Recently, with the market at its peak, I decided to sell some of the units I held in a well-known fund. On Monday morning, I posted my instructions in the first class envelope provided. I received confirmation the next Saturday, showing the dealing date as Friday. By then, the market had suffered a significant correction. I have suggested to the managers that they appear to go slow on instructions to sell on a falling market. I will, in future, conduct dealings by phone. Yours sincerely, LIONEL OAKLEY, 6 Maidment Crescent, Witham, Essex.

opened an account the day before with £1. The account was well above the £100 level at the time the society confirmed its plans, and has been so ever since. It is important that bona fide members of building societies likely to be seeking bank status realise that they have to be very prescient if they wish to benefit. The individual who opens many accounts of £101 in different societies will be a steady customer of any one society. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL CRAWFORD, Honfleur, 50 Falcon Road, Bingley, West Yorkshire.



Bank's change of heart follows complaint

From C. Barry. Sir, On September 9, last year, you printed an article on my complaint against Lloyds Bank which had dramatically increased the fees on its do-it-yourself PEP, changing its charging basis from a flat fee of £20 to a 1/2 per cent of the total PEP value. I am pleased to report that I have now been advised by the bank that it has revised its new charging structure to 1/2

per cent - minimum £20, maximum £50 per annum - regardless of the value of the PEP. The article undoubtedly encouraged a major bank to do a U-turn on its charges. I think that this change of heart should be brought to the attention of your readers. Yours truly, C. BARRY, 87 Highwood Gardens, Clayhall, Ilford, Essex.

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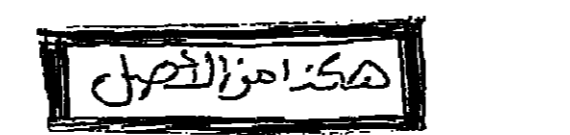
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Main table containing unit trust prices for various funds, organized in columns with headers for fund names and prices.

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Losses wiped out at close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices categorized by industry: BANKS, DISTRIBUTORS, BREWERIES, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, BUILDING MATERIALS, BUSINESS SERVICES, CHEMICALS.

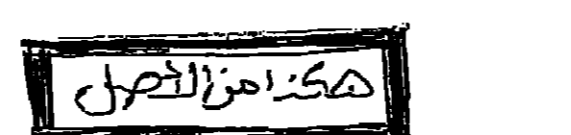
Table of stock prices categorized by industry: ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Table of stock prices categorized by industry: LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL.

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Table titled 'BRITISH FUNDS' showing various fund performance metrics including SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years).



South African leads after two rounds

Strokes of genius elevate Els to new levels of excellence

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SINGAPORE

THEY were strokes well worth travelling around the world to see. No matter how many more tournaments Ernie Els enters this year or how many miles he racks up as he criss-crosses the globe, he will not hit two better iron shots than those at the end of his second round in the Johnnie Walker Classic here. It was a pleasure to see them. Both strokes flew unerringly at their targets. While the first feathered down a foot or so from the flagstick, landing as gently as a butterfly on a leaf, the second was driven hard and low by one of the strongest men in the game. It bounced on the front of the green and rolled 60 feet to stop beside the hole.

The birdie and eagle helped Els to move from seven to ten under par, ensured that he finished his second round in as many days without a bogey and gave him a one-stroke lead over Olle Karlsson, of Sweden, at the Tanah Merah Country Club.

After following Els and Greg Norman almost all the way round, the spectators might have felt the most important occurrence had been on the 7th, their sixteenth, where Leisl, Els's girlfriend, and Laura, Norman's wife, excitedly beckoned their men towards a grove of trees and pointed at what they could see high in the branches. "I thought it was going to be a lot of monkeys," Norman said. "It was a bird," Els said. "Don't ask me what sort. It was coloured and had a big beak." The hornbill sat on its branch as still as a statue. Its plumage was colourful, its beak as big as a man's hand. With its back turned on the bird watchers, it was showing a lofty disdain for those gathered 30 feet beneath.

Thanks for showing so much interest in our golf," Norman, striding away from this ornithological interruption towards his ball, said. Whether he was talking to the bird or his wife is not known. At the 194-yard 8th, their

seventeenth, Els had the honour. He selected his six-iron and judged to perfection the ball's passage over a lake so that it dropped gently two feet below the hole. A birdie was a formality. On the last hole, Els's drive bisected the fairway and left him 222 yards from the front of the green.

This time the club he chose was his three-iron. His low, boring shot was made to move gently in from the right. It bounced on the front edge of the green and rolled the 20 yards to the flag, coming to rest one foot from its target. "Watching someone so good is always an incentive," Norman said. "From where I was standing, I thought it might go in."

Two strokes behind Els is Paul Eales, of England. Eales flirted with the leaders in tournaments at the end of last year and so rounds of 69 and 67 in his first tournament since then were no surprise to him. Eales has become accurate and tournament-hardened, albeit that he is still a short-hitter. On the 8th he used a four-iron, for example, compared to Els's six-iron. On the 9th, though his drive was only ten yards shorter than Els's, he hit a three-wood with all his might and it finished 40 yards in front of the green.



Els has not dropped a shot during two rounds in Singapore

Keegan risks all on a turbulent talent

Rob Hughes fears that the signing of Asprilla could wreck Newcastle United's title dream

Kevin Keegan has an octopus by the tentacles. Faustino Asprilla, the exotic Colombian, apparently passed a medical yesterday and provided that the Home Office grants a work permit, Newcastle United's £7.5 million purchase should be concluded within the next fortnight.

Octopus, or "pulpa", was the name that stuck to Asprilla from his days as an eight-year-old street player in Tulua, in the west of Colombia, and street wiles, street improvisation, street impulsiveness, appear to have governed the career of this immensely fast, often irrational and sometimes inspirational goalscorer through to his past three seasons with Parma in Italy.

He could, provided that the stripes instant form, bring the championship to the North East for the first time in 67 years, but if his wayward moods get the better of things, he could also contaminate the dream that Keegan is paid so handsomely to deliver.

Keegan will know the risk. In 1972, he was at Liverpool when that club was one of three that overtook the championship favourites and league leaders, Manchester City, when City had been in a similar position to Newcastle today.

Malcolm Allison, having recently nudged Joe Mercer "upstairs" as the City general manager, gambled by signing Rodney Marsh from Queens Park Rangers. Marsh, the maverick, was put straight into the team. City lost impetus, shape and games, and Derby County, the eventual champions, Leeds United and Liverpool all took advantage of their disarray.

Joe Mercer was heard to utter that Allison had "paid £200,000 to lose the championship". Allison admitted that his own impulsive nature had wanted something extra, something to spice effectiveness with entertainment, though he never agreed with one of his successors as manager, Tony Book, the right back in his 1972 side, who three years later wrote in the programme: "We tried every-



Marsh's arrival at Maine Road may have cost Manchester City the 1972 championship

thing in our power to make Rodney a successful part of this club. But now he has to go, we cannot permit the problem to fester."

Francis Lee and Mike Summerbee, senior players at the time, had implored Allison to leave the chemistry of the team as it was. I hope, because Keegan's Newcastle set a trend that could ignite more attractive football for years to come, that history is not about to repeat itself. But the risk is there, particularly since Nevio Scala, the Parma coach, has admitted: "Asprilla is unique. He can exasperate you by ignoring instructions, but he can win a game for you

on his own. I wish I could control him."

The manager controlling the players he buys Keegan is right to believe that he needs two players to complete his championship push - a mid-field ball-winner, and a forward to take some of the load off Les Ferdinand. Rumour has it that another £3.5 million of Newcastle's fortune is earmarked for David Batty. One only hopes that his destructiveness on the field has not carried over to effect off it, for it is strange that a player so well looked after through a whole year of injury with Blackburn Rovers should now, apparently, go AWOL.

Keegan, should he land Batty, would attempt, one feels sure, to curb the spite in his name, for that has been no part of his work at Newcastle. Buying players for huge sums of money - the £7.5 million compares with £5.5 million in total for the 1971-72 season - has never daunted him. At the start of this season he bought Ferdinand and David Ginola, and the task was to empty something of himself, his irrepressible spirit, into performers not known for consistency. He has done that.

Asprilla represents a management challenge quite different. He has the will and ability to win medals, but this

time the challenge is to tame, or channel, the wilder aspects of his personality.

Asprilla has a speed, a stride, a startling instinct in his sinewy body, to outwit any defence. If he scores 15 goals, even ten, and Ferdinand remains prolific, nobody would catch Newcastle. But, when the club completed its medical examination, it could not run a stethoscope over the unfaithful element of his brain, his impulse to erupt.

There have been excuses for everything. For the alleged affair with Petra Starbach, the porn actress in Italy, he said: "She was looking for publicity, I fell into her trap." For the incident during a holiday in Colombia, when he returned with 35 stitches in a leg wound, he denied that he had kicked in a bus windshield during an argument, and insisted that he had slipped on a broken bottle at a swimming pool.

For the cars written off

'Asprilla can exasperate you, but he can win a game for you on his own'

during accidents in Parma, he blamed unfamiliarity with Italian drivers. For the one-year suspended jail sentence concerning the possession of illegal firearms, and firing a pistol into the air during new year frolics, he blamed the law. "They only arrested me because I am rich and famous," he said.

And for the lost form, the broken marriage that separated him from his beloved son, Santiago, Asprilla suggests that the murder, in Medellin, of Andrés Escobar, the Colombia full back, after the 1994 World Cup, has preyed on his mind.

Some of it is plausible, some of it stretches credibility, but Asprilla says that he feels like a child again. He hopes the slate can be wiped clean. If it can, then, even at such a price, he can help to bring profit to Newcastle, for few players are as swift on the ground, as cunning in the air, or as audaciously potent when faced with apparently forbidding odds around an opponent's goal. If the deal is completed, one hopes for Keegan's sake that the investment pays dividends.



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NAKED AMBITION

Sharon Stone has finally won a best-actress award. So how did the woman so many took for a bimbo pull it off?

The Style section reveals all

PLUS THE BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

Cup glory remains on offer in new format

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

FOR official purposes, rugby league's new spring-summer season begins this weekend in the depths of winter, with snow, frozen pitches and a familiar risk of postponements in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Shirt sleeves and balmey nights in the brazen new world of Super League are for later. Now the game must wrap itself in thermals for a cherished competition, which, it seems, is to be kept in its present form.

Several sides were accused of not trying in the misguided last winter championship, but there will be no need to call for maximum effort in these fourth-round ties.

Having won the competition for the past eight years, it is not unreasonable to assume that Wigan are working on the basis of playing a 12-month season by the time the inaugural Super League programme is completed. They have a straightforward launch of their defence against Bramley yesterday. Shaun Edwards, having overturned a suspension yesterday, will extend his run of appearances in each of Wigan's 42 undefeated ties.

For St Helens and Warrington, new coaching appointments bring added pressures. But, while London Broncos lost Gary Grienke's guidance this week, they have the easiest task of the clubs in a state of upheaval, at Dewsbury.

The tie at Castleford is a fiery baptism for Shaun McRae, the Australian now in charge at St Helens, while Alex Murphy, in command of Warrington for the game at Oldham said: "We'll see who's worth their jersey, but there are places I would prefer to go than Watersheddings."

Thatto Heath, the amateurs from St Helens, had a commendable win at Chorley in the previous round, but are certain to find Rochdale more treacherous.

Wigan and Bath will discuss television, marketing and sponsorship details for next week their two meetings, under league and union rules, in May.

SPORTS LETTERS

County cricket must change

From Mr Raman Subba Row

Sir, It may be that our cricketing lives will be brightened by an England success in the forthcoming World Cup, but even that should not be allowed to paper over our continuing poor performance.

Twelve months ago, I wrote saying that there was no point in blaming the manager, captain and players for England's ongoing disappointing results. The stark reality is that we are simply not good enough on the international circuit because the young players of talent like England duty. County cricket as a short-term or long-term

preparation for the top is absolutely useless in today's climate. Perhaps a new county cricket structure could embrace the whole country, but we must not kid ourselves any more that it is a vehicle for international success.

The expression "turkeys don't vote for Christmas" may be overused, but the analogy applies particularly to the England cricket problem. The constituent members of the Test and County Cricket Board - or even the long-awaited England Cricket Board - will never vote to reduce their own status for our international benefit.

Despite being an evolutionist by instinct, I now believe that the evolution timescale commits England increasingly to the wilderness. The greater the delay, the longer the walk back.

Yours faithfully, RAMAN SUBBA ROW (Chairman, Test and County Cricket Board, 1985-90), Manor Way, South Croydon, Surrey.

It should be fun

From Mr Freddie Whitelaw

Sir, John Bryant's column ("Skiing on a collision course with sanity", January 18) indicates a radical thought process that many sports enthusiasts will find appealing.

It matters not which sport one discusses, today they are all too serious, too professional and much less fun.

Nothing we do as individuals will make any difference to the top levels of each sport, but here in Wengen we do continue at least one tradition that goes back to the days of Arnold Lunn, when the British did genuinely act as pathfinders in establishing the sport of skiing.

On the first Thursday of February each year, we run our most important downhill race, the MacMillan Cup, and it is run now just as it was 70 years ago.

Despite international races having many decades ago abandoned the simultaneous start, in the MacMillan Cup everyone starts at the same time, much like a cross-country athletics race, and the only

Lottery for yachtsmen

From Mr Rodney Pattison

Sir, I entirely sympathise with Andy Beadsworth's predicament over shortage of funds for a realistic chance of winning the Olympic gold medal in the Soling class at the forthcoming Games (report, January 25).

The Olympic selectors, headed by Mike McIntyre and Bryn Vale (winners of the Star gold medal in Seoul - chosen, ironically, through a last-minute, sudden-death system) have only themselves to blame for any of our sailors being in this unsatisfactory financial position.

In their wisdom, these selectors chose final trials, which were held last August for all but the Star class. Subsequently, and as intended, the selected few are faced with a year of expensive training abroad until the final competition. Olympic class competition in the UK has died completely for now and until after the Savannah Olympic regatta: sailing in the UK will therefore do little or no good at all and effective training has to be done abroad.

Perhaps the selectors are sighing with relief once more. The National Lottery has already provided one lifeline with the purchase of boats, but, as the selected are finding, this is just a small fraction of the overall campaign costs involved. Now, thanks to a change in the Lottery rules, a second lifeline has been thrown, which can provide financial help directly to the participants themselves. All that remains is a successful lobbying campaign to the Sports Council, probably by the selectors, but funds are still limited and other sports are equally entitled.

If Lottery money assists Andy Beadsworth again, he should not thank the selectors, who were the cause of the problem, but the nation for its enthusiasm for gambling.

Yours sincerely, RODNEY PATTISON, 11 Purbeck Avenue, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

صكزا من الأصل

Merseyside's finest come under Cup threat from two rejected strikers and one resilient manager

Shrewsbury look to their unlikely lads

Romance lights up Rudge's survival game



By Peter Ball

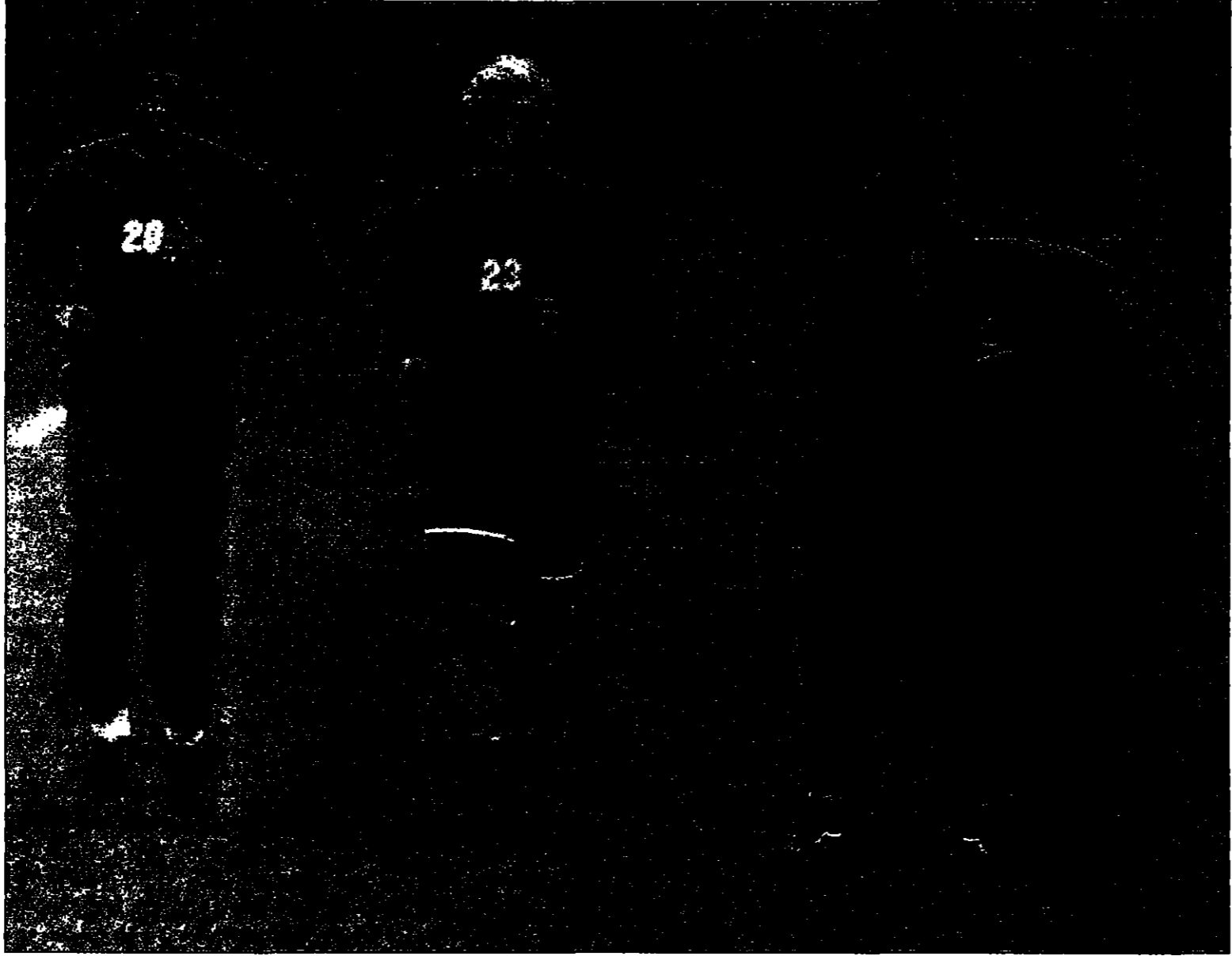
LIVERPOOL'S international back three are household names. The Shrewsbury Town forwards they are facing in the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Gay Meadow today are not...

The Liverpool defenders will recognise Anthrobus, for all have played with him - Babb and Ruddock at Millwall, where he started...

A series of injuries did not help, but when White left, Joe Kinnear sent Anthrobus on loan to Peterborough United...

He is loving the football. Shrewsbury have an impressive Cup record, with Ipswich Town and Manchester City among their victims when both were leading teams...

"You'd never have got that out of me at Wimbledon," he said. "But I'm so much more confident now. The paffer has been brilliant to me, he wants me to play. He says: 'We'll get the Wimbledon style out of you...'"



Anthrobus, left, and Spink are put through their paces by Davies, the Shrewsbury Town manager, before the visit of Liverpool today

is what you are bad at; and that's what Fred Davies does. And that's why I'm enjoying it so much."

Spink, the club captain, has also found Davies a sympathetic manager. A late developer, he was working as a window-cleaner when his goals for Halesowen Town...

For Williams, 24, there is no fear or trepidation, only an eagerness for more of the same. It illustrates how far he has progressed since he made his debut for Reading in the 1988-89 season...

began to attract attention, and he signed for Aston Villa. He scored 17 goals in 21 games for the reserves, but his lack of an apprenticeship told against him...

Two weeks later, Hartford had gone, and John Bond arrived as manager. It was an unhappy time. Bond did not rate him as a forward, and left him in no doubt...

his upward mobility. "Italy are a magnificent side with brilliant players," he said. "I normally return from the Welsh trips to a match against Barnsley away, or something like that, but playing United is such a massive game for us..."

I was no use as a footballer. He used to say I'd never make a forward as long as I hadn't got a scar on my head. But I couldn't see that Gary Linker's head was covered in scars."

They compromised, with Bond moving Spink to centre half, but a serious thigh injury, which had briefly threatened his life when a blood clot developed, kept him out for six months...

Manchester United have suffered only one reverse against Reading, in 1929-27, the latter's one success in nine matches, when they lost 2-1 in a second replay.

Nottingham Forest also have personnel problems for their game against Oxford United, of the Endleigh League second division, at the City Ground.

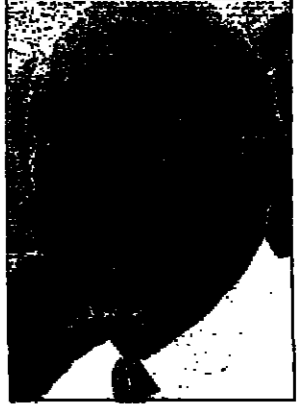
Stuart Pearce, the Forest captain, sustained a calf injury during England's three-day training get-together this week and is doubtful. David Phillips will replace him.

Matthew Le Tissier, the Southampton midfielder, is hoping to revive his flagging career against Crewe Alexandra at The Dell. After scoring 29 goals last season, he has managed only six this time around...

He has achieved it on a creative mixture of insight and cheerful optimism. "We have always had to produce players here to survive. Bring them in cheap and sell them on at a premium..."

Despite Rudge's instinct for survival, despite his achievement, there have been times when he came close to being dismissed. "People think I've just gone comfortably along, no pressures here, but I know that I have been one game away from the sack lots of times..."

So why does he stay? Why does he wait for the ungrateful refrain of thanks for the memories? There have been plenty of offers over the years: "I am ambitious, but even though there have been jobs offering more money, they have not been the right ones..."



Rudge: optimistic

It's a great thing the FA Cup, it's something for the whole town to enjoy. We get a bit of cash - which helps - and we get a chance to have a go at a big club.

"We've got a good record you know - beaten Tottenham, Southampton and Derby in my time. If they have an off day, then we've got a chance of doing it again."

With his balding pate and straight-man's face, Rudge will never cut a glamorous dash in the managerial fast-lane. His experience, and ability, demands more, but he could be left forever at Port Vale, living on the scraps from the rich man's table.

In Bennett's novels, the Golden Angel of the Five Towns looks down imperiously from Burslem Town Hall. It is there now, perched atop the Burslem Civic Centre, its hopeful smile stretching over the rooftops towards Vale Park in the distance. Rudge will recognise that smile.

Williams relishes meeting the best

By Russell Kempson

ON WEDNESDAY, Adrian Williams, the Wales defender, faced Fabrizio Ravanelli and Gianfranco Zola, the Italy forwards, this afternoon. Williams, the Reading captain, takes on Andy Cole and Eric Cantona, of Manchester United. In successive matches, he will have confronted four of the best strikers in Europe...

Through the 3-0 defeat against Italy in Terni, near Rome, was a chastening experience for all Welshmen concerned. Williams views it - and the FA Cup fourth-round tie against United at Elm Park today - as vital if he is to continue

his upward mobility. "Italy are a magnificent side with brilliant players," he said. "I normally return from the Welsh trips to a match against Barnsley away, or something like that, but playing United is such a massive game for us..."

Middlesbrough go into their tie against Wimbledon, at the Riverside Stadium, on a dismal run of five successive Premiership defeats. They could be further hindered by the loss of Juninho. Bryan Robson, the player-

manager, and Chris Whyte because of injuries. Juninho has knee trouble. Nottingham Forest also have personnel problems for their game against Oxford United, of the Endleigh League second division, at the City Ground.

Stuart Pearce, the Forest captain, sustained a calf injury during England's three-day training get-together this week and is doubtful. David Phillips will replace him.

FOURTH ROUND FORM GUIDE

SINCE the FA Cup took on its present form in 1925-26, Liverpool and Everton have won the most fourth-round ties (35 apiece). Liverpool might, however, be said to shade their Merseyside rivals because they have reached this stage on two more occasions...

Team	P	W	L
Liverpool	50	35	15
Everton	48	35	13
Tottenham	46	34	12
Manchester U	47	32	15
Sheff Wed	47	29	18
Man City	42	25	17
Aston Villa	39	24	15
Middlesbrough	38	21	15
Notm Forest	36	21	15
West Ham	38	20	18
Bolton	37	20	17
Sheff Utd	40	19	21
Wolves	37	19	18
Leeds	35	18	17
Southampton	33	17	13
Ipswich	28	16	12
Huddersfield	30	12	18
Charlton	25	11	14
QPR	15	11	4
Coventry	24	8	16
Reading	19	8	11
Swindon	28	7	21
Wimbledon	10	7	3
Port Vale	19	6	13
Shrewsbury	11	6	8
Brentford	18	5	11
Oxford Utd	13	6	8
Oxford	12	4	8
Peterborough	12	4	8
Walsall	12	4	8
Reading	11	3	8
Crewe	7	1	6

Seven clubs have never beaten their opposition in the FA Cup: Brentford, Manchester City, Wimbledon, Wokingham, Peterborough, Port Vale and Grimsby and the highlighted teams hold superiority over their lesser opponents (the home team's record is shown).

Manchester United have suffered only one reverse against Reading, in 1929-27, the latter's one success in nine matches, when they lost 2-1 in a second replay. Aston Villa will be on their guard against Sheffield United, who dispatched Arsenal in the last round, after a replay at Bramall Lane, and have managed one victory over the Middlesbrough in their previous meetings.

Two ties feature clubs standing all square in their Cup meetings. The all-Premiership clash (one of four in this round) of Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers should be close but Nottingham Forest's home advantage should prove decisive against Oxford United.

THE rhythm of the African Nations' Cup changes abruptly this weekend, now that eight teams remain. The quarter-finals contain the essence of knockout competition, and in three of the four South African venues the promise of a contest between the explosive, unpredictable southern talents and the more controlled techniques of Arab-influenced teams from the north of the continent - Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia - who have all made light of the handicap of their Ramadan fast.

Algeria are three highly-fancied teams, the "elephants" of Ivory Coast and the "lions" of Cameroon, too long in the tusk and the tooth. Gone also is George Weah, the world player of the year, whose Liberia team did more talking than playing.

pace and penetration down the right. Innocent "Iron Man" Buthelezi and "Shoes" Moshoeu are expected to provide the impetus for South Africa to overcome the control that Moussa Saib, the Algerian playmaker, exerts for Algeria. Tonight, in possibly the tie of the round, Zambia meet Egypt in Bloemfontein. He is proof that old players, like old soldiers, never die. Kalusha Bwalya, 32, a survivor of the plane crash that killed 18 Zambia players three years ago, has scored five times in two games, proving he is as deft with his left foot as he is dignified in manner.

Midfield trio enrich South Africa

By Rob Hughes

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Egypt are led by Ahmed El Kass, also scoring freely thanks to the creativity of Doctor Khumalo, who gives

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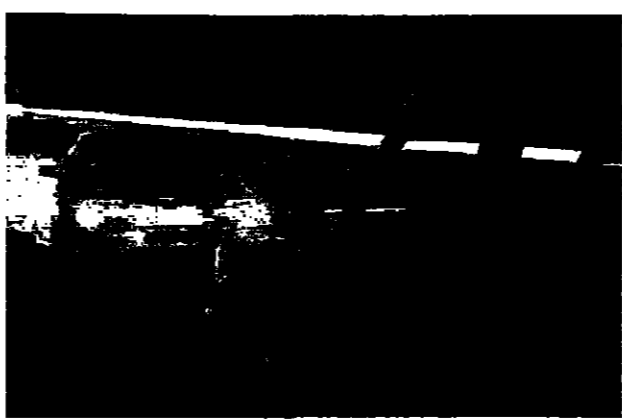
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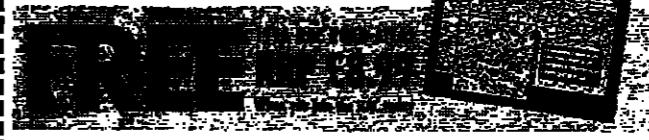
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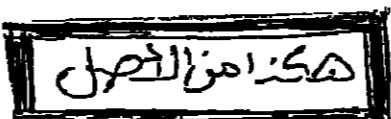
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Saturday portrait: Jerry Jones, by Oliver Holt

Infamous owner who has sacked his way to another Super Bowl

Jerry Jones likes to tell people about the cartoon that hangs on his office wall at the Dallas Cowboys' Valley Ranch training complex. It shows two vultures sitting on a branch. One is saying to the other: "Patience, hell, I'm going to kill something."

Jones has never been bought of a one for patience. When he bought the Cowboys for \$140 million in 1989 and became at a stroke one of the most powerful figures in American sport, he warned he would involve himself in every aspect of the running of the club, "from socks to jocks", and promptly sacked the team's legendary coach, Tom Landry.

Two years ago, after his money and his trading skill had helped to transform the team from the laughing-stock of the National Football League (NFL) into back-to-back Super Bowl champions, he fired Landry's successor, Jimmy Johnson, after a glorious soap opera of disagreements about Jones's meddling in the running of the team. Imagine Sir John Hall firing Kevin Keegan at the end of this season with Newcastle United newly-crowned champions and you might begin to appreciate the impact it had.

Less than a month after that, he told friends that "500 coaches could have done what Johnson did" and then set about proving his point by hiring Barry Switzer, a man who had been out of the sport altogether for five years and who had never coached in the NFL before. Switzer was the antithesis of Johnson, content to play the role of Jones's yes-man.

This year, Jones's patience has run out with the NFL too. He grew tired of the system that forced each team's revenue to be shared out equally and struck his own advertising deals with Pepsi and Nike, deals that conflicted with the league's agreements with Coca-Cola and Reebok and are likely to widen the gap between the haves and have-nots. The other owners are suing him for \$300 million; he is counter-suing for \$750 million.

There is, however, one area in which Jones has been obliged to bide his time. He may have thought he had seen the last of Johnson when he gave him a \$2 million golden goodbye to go with

his sacking but he has been unable to prevent his ghost from floating over everything the Cowboys do, haunting every minor failure with the promise of what might have been had he stayed.

When Johnson took over as the Miami Dolphins' head coach last month, the stakes suddenly got higher. If Johnson won a Super Bowl with his new team before the Cowboys proved Jones had been right to sack him by winning one themselves under Switzer, the Dallas owner would face humiliation. Well, the Cowboys will play in Super Bowl XXX in Phoenix, Arizona, tomorrow and only the Pittsburgh Steelers stand between Jones and the dispatch of one more prey. The Jerry and Jimmy Show has gone prime time again.

Jones, 53, looks like a handsome

'He is in it for himself, for the money, for the publicity and for the profile'

version of the prison governor in the Paul Newman film *Cool Hand Luke*, the one with the speech impediment and the nice line in "failure to communicate". He grew up in a rough area of Little Rock, Arkansas, where his mother and father would dress him up in a suit when he was a child and encourage him to walk around their store and help the customers.

He gained a master's degree in business from the University of Arkansas, where he played in a near invincible American football team and earned extra money by selling players' tickets at heavy mark-ups. He moved into one of the insurance companies his father had built up when he left college and, by the mid-1970s, he had become an important player in oil and gas, banking and real estate. He got out of the oil business just before it took a dive. He is nobody's fool.

He has used his business acumen to good effect with the

Cowboys, too. He has recovered all but \$10 million of his initial outlay and the team is now worth \$190 million. When he became the owner, only six of the 118 luxury suites at Texas Stadium were leased. There are now 368 suites and most of them are booked solid until 2008. Every home game since the beginning of 1990 has been a sell-out.

But Jerry Jones is no Jack Walker. He is in it for himself, for the money, the publicity and the profile. The team that loves to call itself America's Team has found itself with America's Owner, hard-nosed, ruthless and power-hungry. Even his critics acknowledge he has exploited the Cowboys as a corporate entity more successfully than any rival owner has done with his team.

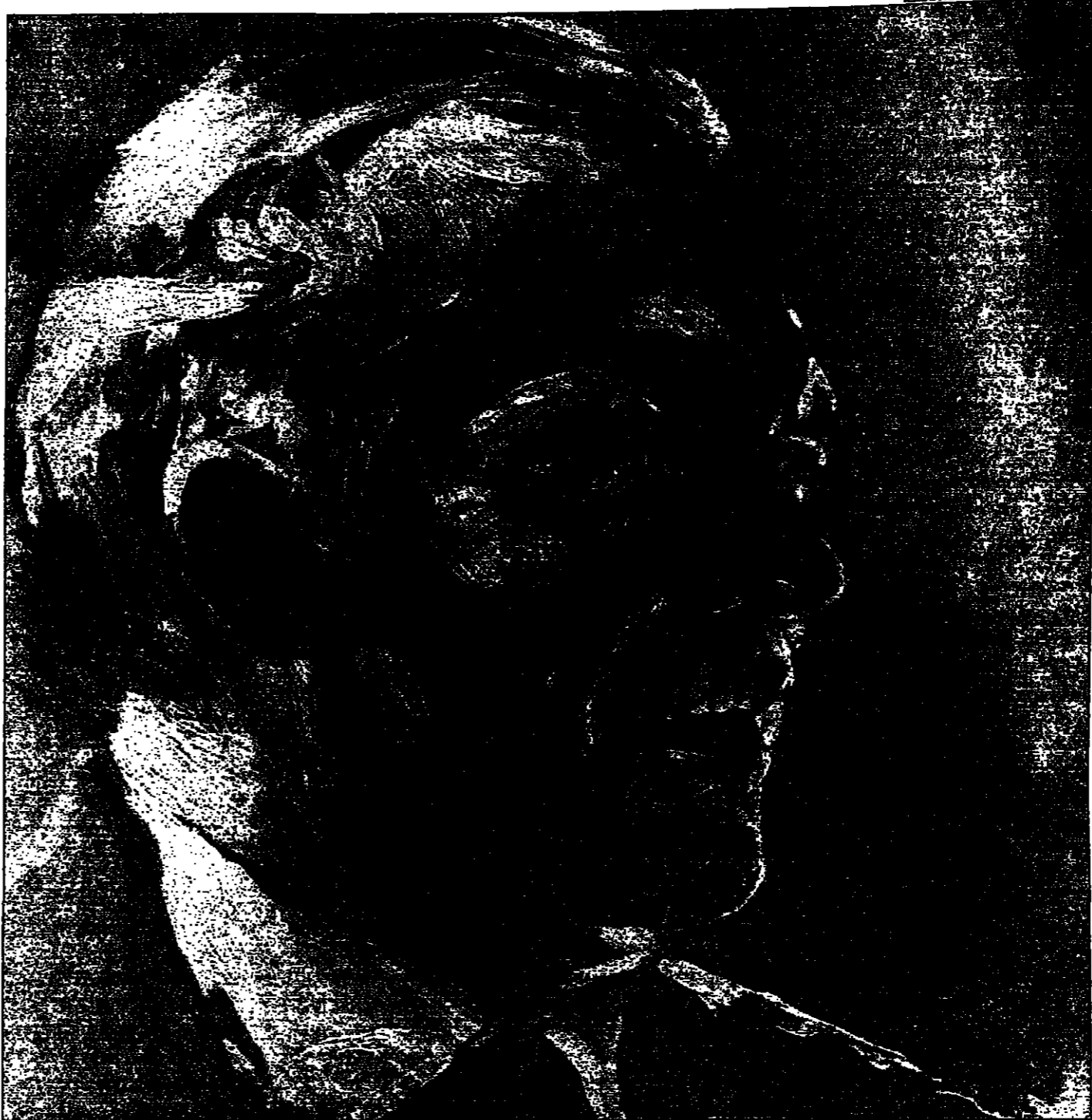
Popularity, though, has eluded him and condemnation is usually only a beat and a defeat away. Part of the problem was that, before he left, Johnson had managed to undermine Jones's reputation by poking fun at his attempts to involve himself in the signing of players and in decisions on which college students should be picked in the annual draft.

Johnson told a reporter that Jones had done to him after the 1990 season and told him: "I want it to be Jerry and Jimmy, not just Jimmy." Johnson also told friends that he had been under orders to pretend to be consulting Jones when the cameras turned to them on draft day.

This is the heart of everybody's problem with Jones. Most of the United States wants to like the Dallas Cowboys but they see a man at the helm who seems to be using the team as his plaything, a vehicle for acting out his coaching fantasies, without possessing any of the qualifications or having the nerve to be candid about it rather than using Switzer as a front man.

"I believe I could coach in the NFL," he said recently. "In fact, if I hadn't been so determined to be a financial success when I came out of college, there is no question I would have gone into coaching."

That admission apart, though, he protests his innocence vehemently. "I simply saw a knot on



the tyre and, before it blew out, I replaced it." Jones said of the loss of Johnson. "He could have fired some heavy internal shots. If he had stayed, there would have been quite a Jimmy and Jerry Show here last season and the damage would have been horrible."

"People who think that it's meddling when I involve myself in the football aspects of this business aren't looking at the real world. Decisions about what happens on the field — between the white lines — are made by the coaches. I never second-guess them. But there is

also the financial area, which includes salaries and negotiations, the acquiring of players either through trades or draft decisions.

"These skills are not unique to football. Until 1989, neither Jimmy nor I had ever made a trade or a draft pick. But, if I hadn't been a pretty good trader, I wouldn't have had the money to buy the Cowboys in the first place. Having said all that, if someone still wants to call it meddling, screw 'em."

And so, throughout this week, while the Steelers owner, Dan Rooney, has remained in the

background, Jones has taken the stage before Switzer at the team's daily press conferences, talking about how practice has gone and how he is mulling over which players may come and go at the end of the season.

On Tuesday, media day, where when the hundreds of journalists covering the Super Bowl interviewed the players at the Sun Devil Stadium, Jones took his place in the stands a few yards away from his quarterback, Troy Aikman. There were almost as many reporters around him as any

of the leading players. The next day, Johnson held a press conference in the Phoenix Civic Plaza. He did not want to detract attention from the game, he said, it was just that there had been so many requests.

Before he left the stage, he offered one final analysis of his nemesis. "Jerry Jones is a driven man and an intelligent man," he said. "He is the finest salesman I have ever met, the finest businessman I have ever known. Jerry wants a lot of things. In fact, Jerry wants everything."

Smith gives Cowboys lethal weapon

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

THE supermarket tabloid that festoons the checkouts of most stores here is hot with the news that scientists have found the salty remains of Cro's wife in Jordan, that the crew of the doomed space shuttle Challenger cheered after their craft had blown up and that a new deadly virus can turn home computers into bombs. If it had a sports section, it would be saying that the Pittsburgh Steelers have a fighting chance of victory in Super Bowl XXX here tomorrow.

The party is in full swing now; hotels and bars that were empty because of the prohibitive prices until Thursday are

full to bursting and sports stars and celebrities are pouring out of Los Angeles and Las Vegas to this sprawling metropolis surrounded by desert and huge outcrops of rock.

Many of them desperately want the Steelers to cause an upset, but the Dallas Cowboys are already acting like the victors most people assume they are going to be. They ride around town in stretch limousines and swagger into nightclubs, barely able to disguise their expectations of a straightforward triumph in Sun Devil Stadium.

The Cowboys are not quite the team they were when they won back-to-back Super Bowls against the Buffalo Bills in 1993 and 1994. They have lost a couple of key defensive



players; their performances this season have been worryingly inconsistent and some of their biggest stars, including the quarterback, Troy Aikman, and pass rusher, Charles Haley, are less than fully fit. Their coach, Barry Switzer, though far from the dullard the media portray, is still surrounded by lingering doubts about his ability.

But they still have the most

feared weapon in the sport, the prolific and apparently indestructible running back Emmitt Smith, who destroyed the Green Bay Packers in the National Football Conference championship game a fortnight ago and who always saves his best for big games. He is what the Americans like to call a "clutch" player, one who comes up with the important moves in crucial situations.

"Big players make big plays in big games," Smith said yesterday. "Whenever a big game comes up, it's time for players to step up and make big plays. Being in the sport that I love so much, I want to be the player to make the big play. That's my approach to it. I want to be the man that's

going to make the big plays and make things happen."

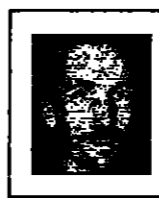
Pittsburgh has never been beaten by the Cowboys in a Super Bowl and triumphed over them in 1976 and 1979, guided by their inspirational quarterback, Terry Bradshaw. Their slim chances of winning this year, though, rest on the ability of their pass rushers, Kevin Greene and Greg Lloyd, to jolt Aikman's poise, and on the hope that their quarterback, Neil O'Donnell, can continue to provide the team with the option of a passing game as well as relying on the running back, Bam Morris.

However, the bookmakers have got the Cowboys down for a 13-point win and Dallas are happy with that.

Amateurs enjoy traditional art of propping up the bar

I RETURN to my desk to find a letter from Roger Linn, chairman of Ditchling Rugby Football Club. "Last Saturday, our 2nd XV took on Tunbridge Wells 3rd XV," he writes. "During the pre-match warm-up, one of their props, either in an attempt to frighten us (in which he was quite successful), or as part of his normal 'getting the game-face on' routine, spent some time violently propping down against one of our goalposts."

"On the third occasion, he hit the upright so hard that it moved just enough to allow the crossbar to fall on his head. He received six stitches and took no part in the game."



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

enough. If we only ever fly the flags of morally irreproachable nations, we will save an awful lot of money on flags.

Net gains

Do you ever feel totally out of kilter with the times? Lines from a recent Wolverhampton Wanderers programme: "Nigel is very much the man of the moment behind the scenes at Wolves just now, as the new Internet Cyber Bar is about to come on line. The Cyber Bar will be based in the Johnny Hancock Suite and will be a place where users can surf the net using the most up-to-date computers."

and a helmet, and is the brainchild of Amitava Chakravarty, who won the honour from 64 other entries. "The mascot is a reflection of the refreshing resurgence of a fine art, leg spin bowling, within which the googly is the perfect symbol for intrigue, unpredictability and the courage to be different," the competition organisers announced.

Kids' stuff

Cricket has just become a "core extracurricular activity" in Singapore schools. Dilbag Singh, principal of Teok Kurau Secondary, said: "It is a great game that teaches boys how to be gentlemanly. Besides, the basic psychomotor skills can be developed."

Buckfield leads Britain's race into space

David Powell meets two men taking a giant leap forward to further the cause of pole vaulting

I will go straight to 5.50," Buckfield said. "If the record does not go this weekend, it will definitely go this year."

At 22, Buckfield envisages clearing six metres — a height only achieved by three men — "in four or five years' time". That coincides neatly with the 2000 Olympics. "My ambition is Olympic gold, that is all I ever think about," he said.

It would be a pleasant change for a British pole vaulter to inspire the right headlines. In 1989, Michael Edwards made the front page of *The Sun* for what the newspaper described as "a

sex frolic on stage with a nightclub stripper" while in Barcelona to vault for Britain in the World Cup. He was later dropped from the England team for the Commonwealth Games. Last September, Keith Stock, Buckfield's predecessor as British record-holder, was jailed for six years for drugs trafficking and theft.

The next test of Buckfield's potential will come when he progresses from a 5.0-metre pole. Sergey Bubka, the world champion and world record-holder, uses a 5.20-metre pole and Buckfield will move on to 5.10 this year. He should improve further when

he becomes strong enough to use the stiffer pole.

"The heavier the weight, the more the pole will bend and the slower it will straighten," Sutcliffe said. "Therefore, the stiffer the pole, the better. It is like a catapult: the stiffer the elastic, the faster the stone comes off it. The pouduage of the pole relates to how difficult it is to bend. It is pouduage in relation to body-weight that matters. Nick uses a pole which is about 30lb above his own body-weight, compared with Bubka, whose pole is 40 to 45lb above his body-weight."

If Buckfield can make just a small improvement, he should start earning enough not to be dependent on the support of his parents and girlfriend. "Then I can say it's my proper job," Buckfield said. "I need 5.80 to 5.85 to get on the main circuit."

As a teenager, Buckfield was an all-rounder. Aldershot Football Club wanted him as a YTS player and he was keen on judo. "You rarely get someone in the event who is not good at other sports," Sutcliffe said. "You need to be a runner, a jumper, a gymnast; strong, agile, well-proportioned." And have somewhere to practise. Had there not been a sports hall close to his home in Crawley that caters for vaulting, Buckfield would have become a footballer.

The facility at Horsesham has colourful murals of famous British athletes along the wall: Christie, Cram, Coe, Overt, Thompson ... and Michael Edwards. "Hopefully, I can win something and they will put my picture there," Buckfield said. With Sutcliffe's help, he may just succeed.



A mural depicting Michael Edwards, the former British pole vaulter, in competitive action adorns Buckfield's training venue in Sussex



Many of the Ditchling players were so overcome that there was some doubt as to whether or not we would be able to field a full side. The game eventually went ahead, and the player we loaned them to make up for the absent prop scored the winning try.

"Do you think this sort of behaviour will prevent us from playing our full part in the new professional game?"

Nuclear fallout

The French flag is not flying above Flinders Park even as the Australian Open tennis tournament builds to its climax this weekend. Flinders Park staff refused to put it there because they objected to the French setting off nuclear bombs all over the Pacific. The flag of Roland Garros, the French tennis headquarters, is flying instead. It is a good idea, but it doesn't go far

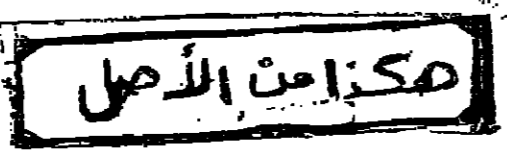
Falling reserves

Footballer of the week is Peter Clarke, who scored eight goals for Woodlands in the first half of their match against Pangbourne Reserves — and then had them wiped out. The Reading Football League match seemed to be going sweetly enough for Woodlands as they moved into a reasonably comfortable 15-0 lead, but Pangbourne Reserves, who had started with eight men, then suffered two injuries, and the match was abandoned. They will have to replay it at a later date.

Meanwhile, I hear about a referee in Bolivia who sent the ball off. Refusing a match between two teams of ex-pros, he grew exasperated at the ball, which was old and out of shape. Finally, he showed the ball the red card and booted it into the middle distance. No, I don't know what happened next, alas.

Googlee's turn

Latest news from the wacky world of mascots. The mascot for the cricket World Cup is "Googlee". He is a cricket ball wearing coloured pads, with a



SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

Home Office may have last word in deal taking Colombian to Newcastle

Asprilla's arrival remains on ice

By Peter Ball

NEWCASTLE United will have to wait for a work permit before they can add Faustino Asprilla to their payroll.

"You can't sign without a work permit," Freddie Fletcher, the Newcastle chief executive, said at a snowy St James' Park.

The work permit should be a formality, persuading the Home Office's immigration department that Asprilla is a desirable resident may be slightly more difficult.

Of the player's ability there is little doubt. "Kevin [Keegan,

He could bring the championship to the North East for the first time in 67 years, but if his wayward moods get the better of things, he could also contaminate the dream.

Rob Hughes, page 42

the Newcastle manager] rates him very highly, and other people believe he is one of the three best players in the world," Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, said, with a possible excess of enthusiasm.

A member of the Colombia team that performed so limply in the 1994 World Cup, Asprilla made a significant contribution to Parma's success in winning the European Cup Winners' Cup and the Uefa Cup.

But, for the £6.7 million that will take his spending this season over £20 million, Keegan is also signing a player with a chequered history on and off the pitch.

Asprilla has a criminal record for illegally possessing a firearm after firing a gun in the streets of Medellin. As part



Asprilla, the Colombia international, is met by Newcastle United supporters who gathered in the snow at St James' Park yesterday to greet him as he arrived from Italy

of a suspended prison sentence, he is required to report monthly to the Colombian embassy. Although he was allowed in as a visitor yesterday, a firearm offence means his record will be examined closely before he is granted residency.

The incident in Medellin, where he fired the gun into the air, may be put down to youthful excess, but in conjunction with other incidents, including a violent argument with a bus driver and several car crashes, it makes a

chequered history that may give the Home Office pause for thought. But Sir John is likely to press the case with conviction.

"I am excited like a child again to be joining Newcastle," Asprilla said. "I don't care about what is in the past, the slate is wiped clean."

Keegan, though, may also find that he is a maverick in the changing-room. He has fallen out with both the coach and general manager at Parma. Asprilla's complaints about feeling cold in his early

days in Italy do not bode well for a long stay in the North East, but the honeymoon period may last long enough for Newcastle to win the Premiership and justify the transaction.

The outlay may soon be even greater, with a move for David Batty, the midfielder player out-of-favour at Blackburn Rovers, still in the pipeline. Blackburn were at pains yesterday to deny that Batty had failed to report for training since a discussion with Harford last Friday.

"I don't know where these stories come from," Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, said yesterday. "He trained on Wednesday. With no game this weekend, the players have had time off this week, but I expect him to be there when they report back next week."

Batty has been unhappy since he was substituted against Ipswich Town in the FA Cup replay, and then left out of last week's game against Sheffield Wednesday. Although Blackburn insist

that they have had no official offer from Newcastle, talks have taken place.

Blackburn are understood to want £4 million with Newcastle valuing the player at £3.5 million, still a lot for a player who missed nearly a year with injury and has struggled to recover his form since his return. Keegan, however, sees his combative qualities as a useful addition to the squad, and his experience in winning the title with both Leeds United and Blackburn could be invaluable.

The Birmingham City manager, Barry Fry, is aiming to increase his huge squad by signing the Liverpool midfielder player Jan Molloy, who has completed a loan spell with his club's first division rivals Norwich City. Fry was so impressed by the 32-year-old Denmark international in his two appearances against Birmingham in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finals that he wants to recruit him.

Shrewsbury's hopes, page 43 Resilient Rudge, page 43

Racing hit hardest as freezing weather takes toll

By John Goodbody

THE freezing weather has curtailed the weekend's sports programme with football, rugby and racing having to postpone or cancel fixtures.

The worst weather has been in the north, where there has been several inches of snow, but frost and ice have caused widespread difficulties.

Racing has been hit hardest. Meetings scheduled for today at Ayr, Cheltenham and Doncaster were called off yesterday, bringing the total of cancellations to 55 for the season.

Only the meeting on the all-weather surface at Lingfield survives. There will be inspections tomorrow morning to see whether meetings at Plumpton and Ayr will take place on Monday.

The FA Cup ties, at Coventry City, Ipswich Town and Swindon Town, have been postponed while Bolton Wanderers v Leeds United is in doubt.

Although Middlesbrough had several inches of snow, their opponents, Wimbledon, began the trip north yesterday.

Reading were optimistic of staging their tie with Manchester United, while Southampton were equally confident of meeting Crewe Alexandra at the Dell.

Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham United and Charlton Athletic were all expecting to stage their ties as were the holders, Everton, at home to Port Vale.

Premiership clubs earn European reprieve

By Russell Kempson



Sugar: evidence was crucial

ALAN SUGAR's cussed refusal to accept apparent injustice — and the combined weight of the Football Association (FA) and the FA Premier League — earned Tottenham Hotspur and Wimbledon a reprieve yesterday.

The two FA Carling Premiership clubs had their one-year European suspensions quashed at a hearing in Geneva.

Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, and Ned Hammam, a Wimbledon director, spent 20 minutes giving evidence to the appeals panel of Uefa, the sport's European governing body.

Rick Parry, chief executive of the FA Premier League, and Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, were observers.

Uefa had originally imposed the punishments because Tottenham and Wimbledon fielded weakened sides, and played at Brighton's Goldstone Ground, in the inaugural Intertoto

Cup last summer. After hearing new evidence, Uefa withdrew the suspensions and replaced them with fines totalling about £180,000.

"The initial decision was made without the knowledge and information we had available today," Sugar said. "The committee members who sat in on the appeal admitted that had that information been available, the punishment would not have been so severe. We don't see this as some kind of victory. All we have done is get back to the position that 90 other clubs in England have anyway, which is the right to qualify for Europe."

Parry revealed that the fines would be paid by all the Premiership clubs, not just Tottenham and Wimbledon. "That was agreed at their last meeting," he said. "It was a collective decision and so the costs will be shared." It was also decided that English clubs will not enter the Intertoto Cup this summer.

"The board of appeal decided to amend the suspension and fine both clubs," Salvatore Cuccu, a Uefa spokesman, said. "This was based on new facts and the comprehensive documentation supplied. The board decided that the sanction imposed had been too severe."

Wales open their 1998 World Cup qualifying campaign with matches against San Marino — away on June 2 and at home on August 31. The programme for Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, then gets harder, with successive fixtures against Holland, the European championship finalists.

Gould and David Collins, general secretary of the Football Association of Wales, agreed the group seven schedule in Amsterdam yesterday. Wales conclude their games in Turkey and Belgium.

On the recommendation of Uefa, the Spanish league has agreed to cut its first division from 22 to 18 teams by

1998. It expanded unexpectedly last summer, after the Spanish authorities demoted several teams to the second division for rules violations and then allowed them to return, joining the two clubs who had been promoted.

Steve Stone, the England and Nottingham Forest midfielder player, has signed an improved 3½-year contract at the City Ground. "I've been here 8½ years," he said. "Forest have stuck by me when things were not going well so I've stuck by them."

Phil Neal, the former Coventry City manager, has taken over at Cardiff City, the Endleigh Insurance League third division club. It is his first job since leaving Highfield Road 11 months ago. Neal replaces Kenny Hibbitt, who has moved to director of football at Ninian Park.

Wales World Cup Qualifying Features: 1996: Jan 2: San Marino (away); Aug 31: San Marino (home); Oct 6: Holland (away); Nov 16: Holland (away); Dec 14 or 15: Turkey (home); 1997: Mar 28 or 29: v Belgium (home); Aug 29: Turkey (away); Oct 11: Belgium (away).

A commentary on state of the art broadcasting

In a week which brought the early blows between devotees of Test Match Special and the Today programme over priorities for the cricket World Cup, the historic significance of the words "Welcome indeed, welcome to Barcelona" passed unnoticed. But, in a year or two, when listeners can choose their own football commentaries, flick to the horse racing or the rugby league or bask in uninterrupted coverage of international cricket, the introduction by Ron Jones to commentary on the Olympic Games hockey qualifying match between Great Britain and Holland on Thursday should be fondly remembered.

There was a select audience for the broadcast, the first international transmission by the BBC's new, experimental, Digital Audio Broadcasting

(DAB) service launched late last year. In the studio, Charles Runcie, head of evening sports programming, hopped from foot to foot like an animated schoolboy. Martin the technician threaded tapes on reels with practised calm, the crew of the Midday with Mair show on Radio 5 Live looked nonplussed.

I sat in the corner, privileged to be the only listener in the country who really cared about the result. Fifty yards across Portland Place, Jane Furrell, in charge of DAB affairs, tuned into a purpose-built DAB car radio to hear the commentary. The set had been delivered only a few days before and was perched on the sofa, confirmation that these are still early days.

Sport will be one of the main beneficiaries of the new digital technology, which will

Andrew Longmore on the advances that should mean more choice on the airwaves

allow greater flexibility of programming as well as better reception, and its place at the forefront of the £10 million development mirrors the pioneering contribution of boxing and football towards the growth of the moving picture almost exactly a century ago. The first DAB broadcast came from Blackburn Rovers' 2-1 victory over Southampton in early October, the second featured a complete racecard from Ascot.

In time, listeners to a DAB set will be able to choose their own sport. France v England from the five nations' rugby championship (if there is still such a thing), commentary from the FA Carling Premier-

ship, rugby league, racing. They would all be available. At Wimbledon, there would be a choice of commentary from Centre and No 1 courts; at the Olympics, between archery and athletics. Followers of Test Match Special would have their own station for the duration of the Test and, in theory at least, supporters of Premiership clubs would be able to tune in to their own team every Saturday. The limits will be financial rather than technological, the pace of development governed by the manufacturers as well as the broadcasters.

The BBC emphasises these are still the "first of the first steps", but by March 1998 60

per cent of the United Kingdom should be within range of DAB transmission and the first radios should be on the market, cost as yet unknown. "Sport will be very high up our list of priorities," Furrell said. "But we have to do a lot of research first. Find out what people want."

Back in the studio, the first moment of crisis had been reached. As luck would have it, a short corner for Great Britain coincided with the sports news on Radio 5 Live.

Jones, one of the station's most polished performers, had to keep up commentary while listening for the cue for his report, then introduce his summary of the early moments of the game into commentary without interruption. He did so seamlessly — "you join us five

minutes into the game and Great Britain..." — and listeners to 5 Live caught a perfect account of the short corner (missed) into the bargain.

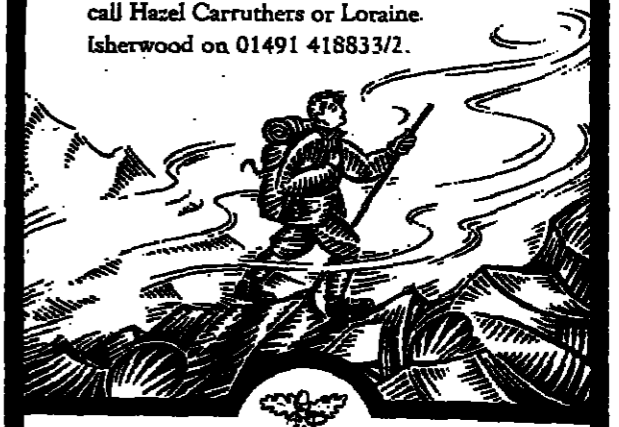
"That's the sort of thing we're looking at," Runcie said. "How the commentary fits in to existing coverage. How much you can get out of one commentator. Can he manage commentary and reports? At the moment, we're just expanding our existing coverage. But it is cinderella sports like hockey which stand to benefit from DAB as well as football. There is no way we could justify 70 minutes of hockey commentary at present. In future, we will have the space."

For the record, a late goal brought Britain a 2-2 draw with Holland. And I heard it first.

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OUTDOORS



Why we should keep the company of wolves

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PLUS: spiritual costs of a boat refit, page 12

TRAVEL



Nefertari arises to rule the Valley of the Queens

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PLUS: guide to the university cities, page 20

BOOKS



Joanna Trollope in praise of the publisher

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GARDENING



Stephen Anderton on trees and climbers

Page 4

PLUS: how to de-slime your patio, page 4

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

THIS HOUSE AND CAR COST NOTHING TO RUN



It is the end of a crisp January day. The setting sun is about to give up trying to hold back the forecast frost. Though masked by a cataract of drifting cloud, it is still strong enough to penetrate the west-facing window of 26 Blandford Avenue, Oxford. It is totally appropriate, and not in the least coincidental, that the dying rays have turned the window's stained glass image of the Sun God into a golden illumination. The Sun God is snoring, and so is Susan Roaf as she turns the key in her north-facing front door. While she has been at work, her house and the sun have been busy making

money. Dr Roaf is the owner and, to a large extent, designer and architect of Britain's most advanced eco-house. From the front, it looks like any ordinary suburban home, squeezed between other ordinary suburban homes, with just enough space either side to allow estate agents to praise them as detached and v. desirable. At the back of No 26 there is a south-facing roof tiled entirely with solar panels generating enough power to keep Dr Roaf's energy-efficient home warm, cook her meals, do her washing, provide hot water, drive her car — and sell power to Southern Electricity. The

By Jack Crossley

conventional homes in Blandford Avenue can face electricity bills of more than £1,000 a year. Dr Roaf's last quarterly bill was for £10.50 — but it came with a cheque for £30 to cover the electricity she had exported to the National Grid. Even last December, with the coldest weather ever recorded in Britain, Dr Roaf needed to buy in only £17.50 of electricity — and that kept the house on a steady 20C and fuelled the car, which was in daily use. "Everyone said this form of energy efficiency wouldn't be possible with a house in

Britain. But I was determined to challenge that, and it's working superbly," Dr Roaf says. "People forget that, even on the cloudiest days, we still get energy from indirect sunlight." How is this achieved? Well, it helps if, like Dr Roaf, you are a lecturer in energy-efficient architecture at Oxford Brookes University, and able to infect others who can help with your own energy-efficient enthusiasm. Two years ago it was estate agents: could they find a plot of land suitable for a six-bedroom, three-bathroom house with a south-facing back roof? Not easy when a futher requirement was that it must be in the heavily built-

up area inside the Oxford Ring Road. The next task was to identify and locate the world's most energy-efficient equipment and materials: kitchen equipment from Britain and Germany, triple-glazed windows from Norway, 150mm-thick concrete blocks from Gloucestershire, nylon wall ties from Denmark, Corsican and Scots pine from Sherwood Forest and Scandinavian redwood pine and North American hemlock. The house also has a hand-built, wood-burning kakkelovn ceramic stove from Sweden, a

Continued on page 3, col 1

HERE ALWAYS
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CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? The Times critics select the best entertainment

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Read Wilde's play, and you might conclude it is a melodrama with epigrams artificially inserted in the creakier gaps. But Peter Hall's production is a major piece of dramatic reclamation. With Anna Carteret, David Yelland, Penny Downie and (especially) a Wide-looking Martin Shaw seamlessly in control, there is humanity, humour and timely truth in the tale of the rising politician threatened both by the appearance of the indiscreet letter he wrote in his youth and by his wife's unforgiving morality. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 8800). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.45pm; matinees: Wed and Sat, 3pm. (C)

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Why has a revival of a neatly carpentered thriller written 50 years ago and earnestly preaching socialism won almost every award in London, as well as several in New York? Why bother at all with J.B. Priestley's tale of a respectable family's destruction of an innocent girl? Because Stephen Daldry's superbly imaginative direction and Ian MacNeil's wonderfully evocative set transform it into a grand, gripping denunciation of the 20th-century's deadlier sins. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-494 5025). Evenings: Mon to Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; matinees: Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

JACKY TERRASSON His eponymous Blue Note debut found a place in many of the shortlists as the critics looked back on the outstanding records of 1995. A puckish virtuoso of Franco-American origin, he has the potential to become the most versatile and accomplished pianist since the controversial Keith Jarrett. Muscular yet poetic, he can slip into a funky backbeat on *I Love Paris*, sprinkle Debussy-esque harmonies on *Hommage à Lili Boulanger* and leap into quicksilver Bud Powell mode at a moment's notice. Jazz Café, Parkway, London NW1 (0171-344 0044), Thur Feb 1, 9pm.

BARBARA COOK/STEVE ROSS Barbara Cook's waltz through Broadway and Tin Pan Alley history is currently one of London's best kept secrets. Do not miss his final week. Wally Harper's piano arrangements are as sumptuous as a full orchestra's, and Cook's subtle vocals lift even the more obscure numbers firmly into the major league. A favourite at the Algonquin and other Manhattan salons, the Cole Porter devotee Steve Ross comes to town with another bulging sack of vintage songs. He will be followed on-stage, later in the evening, by Patricia Hodge and Sheridan Morley, presenting their tribute to Gertrude Lawrence and Jack Buchanan. Cook: Café Royal, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090), tonight, Tues to Sat, 3, 9.15pm. Ross: Pizza on the Park, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273), Mon 29 to Sat 24 Feb, 9.15pm; (Hodge and Morley, 11.15pm).

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

SAMSON ET DALILA There is a slightly improvised feel to the Royal Opera's new year programme, with the management bobbing and weaving through cancelled productions and changes



Humanity and humour: Penny Downie, Dulcie Gray and Anna Carteret star in Peter Hall's timely production of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*

of cast, but the unplanned revival of Saint-Saëns's grand biblical opera is all gain: Sidney Nolan's sumptuously colourful decor, Elijah Moshinsky's grown-up production and David Bintley's rather saucy Bacchanale - not to mention "Softly awakes my heart" - all add up to a trumping good evening out. The Greek mezzo Markella Hatzianou sings the temptress, José Cura is the prophet, and the expert Jacques Delacôte conducts. Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Tues 30, Fri 2, 7.30pm. (C)

THE MAGIC FLUTE There are few more uplifting experiences than a really good performance of Mozart's fairy-tale morality, and the English National Opera fields a strong team for the latest revival of Nicholas Hymen's fine staging. Alexander Sander's stylish conducting is the perfect springboard for exceptional singing from Janice Watson and Ian Bostridge as the very juvenile leads. Peter Snipp as the birdcatcher and John Connell as - in George Bernard Shaw's words - the voice of God. All this, and you can hear the words too. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), Wed 31, Fri 2, 7.30pm. (C)

ROCK

David Sinclair

FRANK BLACK Joining up the musical dots from Nirvana to Green Day, yet still wildly different to both, Frank Black is here to promote *The Cult of Ray*, his third solo album since the demise of the Pixies. A performer of wit and substance, Black remains one of the perennial heavy hitters of American rock. SFX, Dublin (00353 284 1747), Jan

27: Garage, Glasgow (0141-332 1120), Jan 29; Riverside, Newcastle (0191-261 4386), Jan 30; Manchester University (0161-275 2930), Jan 31; Metropolitan University, Leeds (0113-244 2399), Feb 1; Leeds III, Sheffield (0114-275 4500), Feb 3; Junction Cambridge (01223 413600), Feb 4; Walford Hall, Wolverhampton (01902 312030), Feb 5; Bristol University (0117-928 9000), Feb 7; Pyramids Centre, Portsmouth (01705 388608), Feb 8; Astoria, London WC2 (0171-434 0403), Feb 9.



A chorus of approval: grandstander Melissa Etheridge

MELISSA ETHERIDGE/JOAN OSBORNE In her element singing old Janis Joplin songs at the Woodstock Festival of 1994, Melissa Etheridge has revived the grandstanding style of the traditional female rock 'n' roll star. Lionised for her own songwriting by Bruce Springsteen and Randy Newman, she dishes out big, strong themes and sweeping choruses, splashed with primary emotional colours. Her current album, *Your Little Secret*, has been somewhat eclipsed by a new wave of solo American stars which includes support act

Joan Osborne, who has been nominated for five awards at the forthcoming Grammys. Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Jan 30.

DANCE

John Percival

SPRING COLLECTION A chance to catch up with what is happening in British contemporary dance: the Place Theatre and the South Bank Centre combine to offer no fewer than 25 choreographers across three intensive days. There are established creators such as Jonathan Burrows and Siobhan Davies alongside young hopefuls including Mark Bruce. The scheduling allows time to take in all six programmes for a unique cross-section of dance activity. The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, London WC2 (0171-387 0031), Fri 2, 8pm, Sat 3, 1pm, Sun 4, 11am; Purcell Room, Sat 3, 3.30pm, and Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sat 3, 7.45pm, Sun 4, 3pm, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-960 4242).

SWAN DANCE 96 A two-month season of seven dance companies opens in High Wycombe with the premiere of *Crime Fiction* by Arc Dance Company (Fri 2 and Sat 3). Coming in February are Adagio (Wed 7), Aletta Collins (Wed 14) and the black company RJC in *Captured* (Fri 23) and *The Hot Shoe Shuffle* (Mon 26 to March 2). Then in March the Royal Ballet Dance Bites tour brings four more premieres (March 18 and 19) and the series climaxes with Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* (March 26-30). Wycombe Swan, High Wycombe (01494 512000), 8pm; matinees: Feb 28, March 2 and 30, 2.30pm, March 19 and 27, 2pm. (C)

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

PARIS DOUBLE The Orchestre de Paris comes to the Barbican in the "Great Orchestras of the World" series, which perhaps flatters its status: over the years it has shown us its good points but also its sloppy side. Let's hope for the former as Semyon Bychkov, its youthful and personable music director, steers it through Mahler's



Maxim Vengerov, violin, plays Mendelssohn at the Barbican

Resurrection Symphony (Thursday), and a programme of Gilbert Any (a British premiere), Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with Maxim Vengerov as soloist, and *The Rite of Spring* (Friday). Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Thur Feb 1, Fri 2, 7.30pm. (C)

NYMAN'S BACK Half the musical world detests Michael Nyman's pieces; the other half loves them. They are loud, repetitive, mostly derivative and unsuitable - but they create a sound world that is

unmistakably Nyman's own. It usually helps if you have seen whichever of Peter Greenaway's films they originally accompanied. That will probably be the case here: the first British performance of Nyman's *Noises Sounds & Sweet Airs*. It is an opera based on music for *Prospero's Books*, Greenaway's free fantasy on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Singers Catherine Bott, Hilary Summers and Christopher Gillet join the concrete-blasting Michael Nyman Band. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Tues, 8pm. (C)

FIRES

Geoff Brown

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15) Has Pedro Almodóvar finally grown up? It seems so: Spain's most exportable director has made a film of muted design and sober feelings, with kinks just around the edges. Heroine Marisa Paredes is enduring a mid-life crisis over her work (she writes romantic trash) and her marriage to a Nato peacekeeper. This could be a recipe for caricature and farce, but Almodóvar treats the heroine's pain with touching seriousness. Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720); Gate (0171-727 4043); Renoir (0171-837 8402); Ritzy (0171-737 2121); Screen on the Hill (0171-435 3366).

HEAT (15) "They're good." Al Pacino's workaholic detective muses, observing the work of Robert De Niro's criminals, who are robbing their way round Los Angeles. And so is the film, nearly three hours long but with few wasted minutes. The stars alone command attention: Pacino like a tightly-coiled spring, De Niro rigorously controlled as the dedicated criminal. Michael Mann builds

tenion, cutting between cat and mouse. Mobile camerawork and lighting create a Los Angeles of lonely souls, and several action sequences set new standards. Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); MGMS: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636), Trocadero (0171-434 0031), Ritzy (0171-737 2121); Screen on the Green (0171-226 3520); UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332); Warner (0171-437 4343).

GALLERIES

Richard Cook

SUSAN HILLER In a retrospective at the Tate Gallery Liverpool, Hiller reveals the continuity of her interests over the past 20 years. But the means she adopts never ceases to change. In a work called *Monument*, she brings together the plaques memorialising people who died trying to save relatives or strangers. But the most arresting exhibits employ video with beguiling immediacy. While flames flicker on the wall, a child describes Rembrandt's painting of *Belshazzar's Feast*. Then attention turns to claims, by television viewers, that apparitions appear on their screens. The flames grow larger, inviting us to discover hallucinations in their writhing forms. Tate Gallery, Albert Docks, Liverpool (0151-709 3223), until March 17.

JANA STERBAK Last year, the Canadian-based Czech artist stirred controversy by exhibiting a dress made of fast-withering slices of flank steak. In a larger show at the Serpentine Gallery, only one exhibit seeks to shock. Called *Seduction Couch*, it is made of perforated steel and gives anyone rash enough to touch it an electrostatic sting. In a gruffing video work called *Condition*, Sterbak films a man burdened by a wire-mesh object on wheels. He drags the appendage across a deserted airport, and only casts it aside at the end. Maybe we can draw some comfort from this small victory. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London SW7 (0171-723 9072), Feb 25. (C)

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

PAUL SMITH TRUE BRIT Paul Smith is one of the most successful British designers of menswear, and has been chosen as the subject of the Design Museum's first major exhibition devoted to a single fashion designer. For him true Britishness has more to do with the traditional eccentricity of the British than with sportiness and understated casual elegance. The show includes a collection of videos of Smith's principal fashion shows. Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, Shad Thames, London SE1 (0171-403 6933), Mon-Fri, 11.30am-6pm; Sat-Sun, noon-6pm, until April 10.

JOHN DOWNTON Was the Modern British painter John Downton (1906-1991), this touring exhibition asks challengingly, an "archaic misfit" or an "enigmatic genius"? There is, presumably, no reason why he should not have been both. He believed passionately that art had been on the wrong road ever since the early Renaissance, and set about putting it back on track by writing texts, such as *The Death of Art*, and by painting modern portraits in his own meticulously finished manner. Occasionally, in his taste for plump young women, he suggests *Botero*, but in the main he resembles no one, his cool, almost frigid surface containing, if only just, a volcanic force of emotion. Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield (01424-273 4780), Mon-Sat, 10am-8pm; Sun, 2.5pm, until Feb 24.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only Some seats available Seats at all prices

- the very theatre Paul Miller directs... THE GLASS MENAGERIE... THE DUCHESSE OF MALPLI... LES ECRIVAINS DU PARADIS... THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS... THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE... SWEETHEART... HYSTERIA... LONDON INTERNATIONAL WINE FESTIVAL...

NEW RELEASES

- THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET... HEAT... THE INNOCENT SLEEP... TWO TRAINS RUNNING... MADAGASCAR BORN... VOYAGE IN THE DARK... MACK AND MABEL... PRIVATEERS ON PARADE... WILD CATS... THE MOST DESIRED MAN... MADAGASCAR BORN... WILD CATS... THE MOST DESIRED MAN... MADAGASCAR BORN... WILD CATS... THE MOST DESIRED MAN...

CINEMA GUIDE

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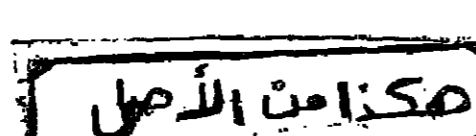
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Advertisement for the film 'The Flower of My Secret' featuring Marisa Paredes. Includes a photo of her and promotional text.



INSIDE STORY

Continued from page 1
British Yorkpark gas-condensing boiler, and an Italian electric car nicknamed Hannibal after being driven over the Alps to win the European Solar Car of the Year award.

How it all works is explained at length, and in numbing techno-jargon, in learned journals (photovoltaic cells, solar thermic panels, photons colliding with electrons in silicon panels, glass-filled thermo-plastic polyester wall ties).

Far better is to listen to Dr Roaf, aged 42 and mother of ten-year-old Christopher and nine-year-old Richard. She is an eager guide to her £200,000 house of the future, which is constantly being invaded by architects, students, technical journalists and scientists interested in solar technology.

Had the house been built conventionally, she says, it would have cost about £160,000. The extra £40,000 covered the cost of the solar roof (about £25,000) and all the energy-saving equipment and materials. The walls, floors, roof and ceilings are super-insulated so that not only sunlight but cooking heat, and even body warmth, are retained within the house.

Sophisticated equipment monitors the heat generated and heat used, but Dr Roaf avoids becoming a high-tech energy bore and takes impish delight in revealing her low-tech method of checking the sitting room temperature — a comic Christmas card which has Santa studying a stick-on strip thermometer.

"Look," she says, "it's 21C on a winter's afternoon and there's no heating on anywhere in the house. Not bad, eh? Light some candles for a dinner party and the temperature goes up."

You might think that when a bunch of sustainable-energy enthusiasts get together to design clinically a totally heat-efficient building you could end up with a clinically heat-efficient building, and not much else. Not very likely when Dr Roaf is on site, and remembering that she is going to live there with two young sons, one of them asthmatic.

The internal finishings of the house were dictated by a desire to keep everything simple, she says. The place had to provide a healthy environment but that didn't mean sacrificing comfort and livability. Uncarpentered timber and cork floors retain warmth and keep down house dust and mites. The walls are simply painted in white, water-based paint, which is easy to clean.

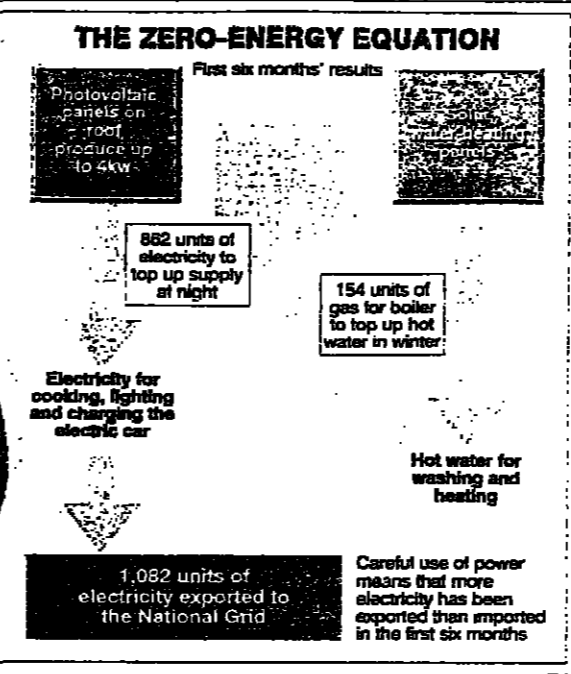
The simplicity of all this made it easy to co-ordinate the rest of the furnishings. Old, solid furniture throughout, comfortable family stuff.

The house is designed not only to keep warm but never to get too hot. The thick walls and the huge amount of concrete in the building soak up heat trapped in the sealed environment. The sources of this heat are the sun, the wood stove, the gas-condensing boiler, the cooking oven and people. The heat from this thermal mass is slowly released back into the house, Dr Roaf says, so that the temperature cruises between 20C and 23C even in the hottest weather. The walls will stay around those temperatures even if it is 30C outside. It has



HOW TO CATCH THE SUN

Dr Susan Roaf's house faces south so that the solar panels on the roof get the maximum sun throughout the year.



THE ZERO-ENERGY EQUATION

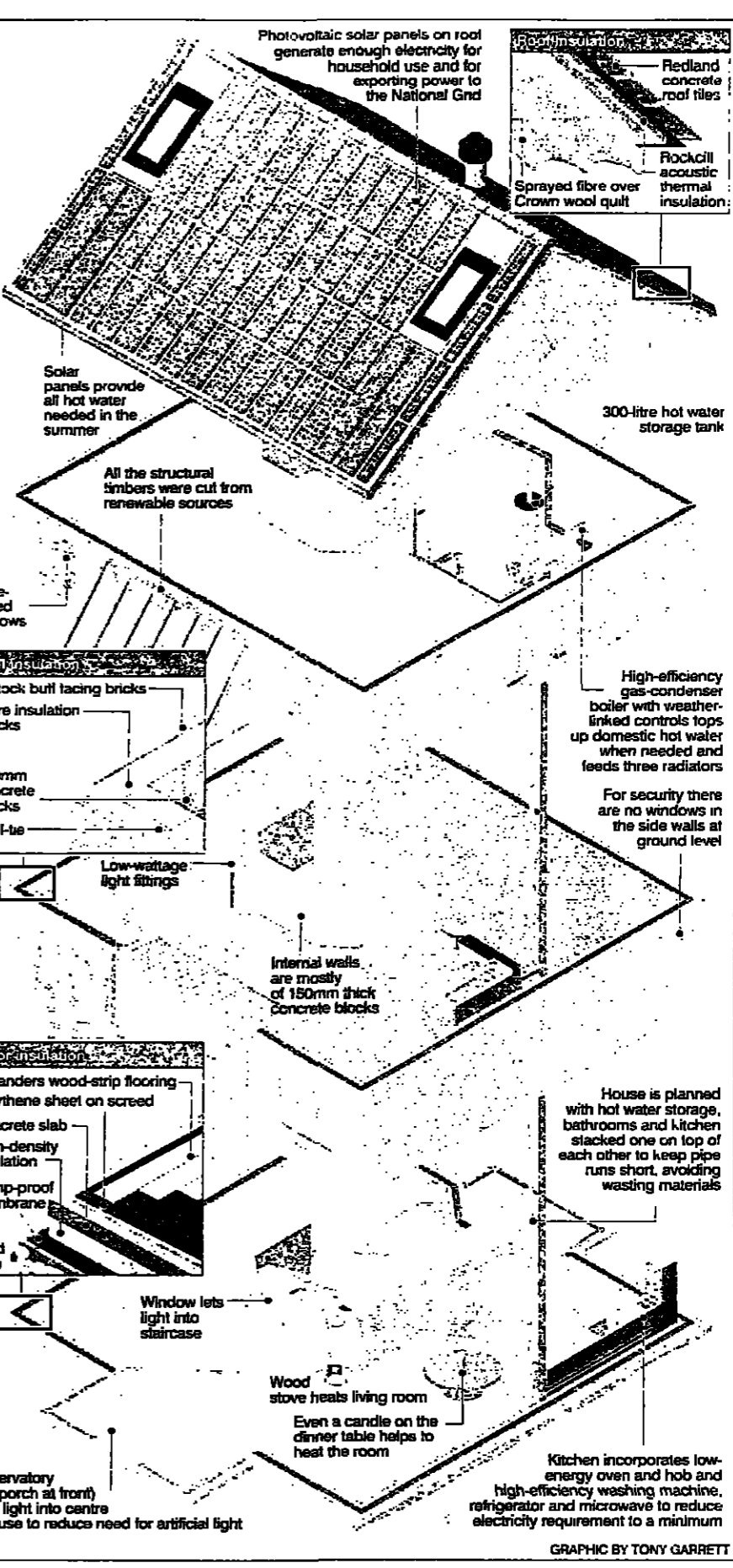
Photovoltaic panels on roof produce up to 4kW
First six months' results
Electric car is recharged from the roof during the afternoon
882 units of electricity to top up supply at night
154 units of gas for boiler to top up hot water in winter
Hot water for washing and heating
1,082 units of electricity exported to the National Grid
Careful use of power means that more electricity has been exported than imported in the first six months

Dr Roaf's system was designed by solar power specialists Alan Dichler, of MJP Associates, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire, and Bruce Cross, of the Energy Equipment Testing Service at Cardiff University. Solar hot water panels from AES at Finchhorn. The house was built by Paul Trimby and colleagues from the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9AZ (01654 702400). They also helped design the roofing system.

SOLAR HOME FACT FILE

- There are 40,000 homes in Britain with solar systems for heating domestic water, and the number is increasing. Such systems (costing about £2,000 to £4,000) simply use the heat of the sun to warm the water running through ranks of narrow pipes. Dr Roaf uses a different technology: photovoltaics. Photons from the sun collide with electrons in her silicon panels. Their only escape route is along wires
- The kakkelovn wood-burning stove is developed from a forest-saving design conceived in Sweden in 1767. Chosen for its ability to absorb, retain and radiate heat. Handbuilt by Reinhart von Zschock, 4 Wycliffe Terrace, Bath Road, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire GL6 0JW (01453 622679). The combustion chamber is similar to a kiln, encouraging wood to burn at maximum efficiency. Harmful pollutants are consumed usefully as fuel.
- The Danish Rufus I nylon cavity wall ties are of glass-filled thermo-plastic polyester, with none of the heat-losing cold bridges of metal wall-ties.
- In answer to queries about the dangers of insulating materials giving off fumes if there were a fire, Dr Roaf says: "All insulating materials have had flame-resistant treatment and are buried between 150mm of concrete."

The kakkelovn wood-burning stove is developed from a forest-saving design conceived in Sweden in 1767. Chosen for its ability to absorb, retain and radiate heat. Handbuilt by Reinhart von Zschock, 4 Wycliffe Terrace, Bath Road, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire GL6 0JW (01453 622679). The combustion chamber is similar to a kiln, encouraging wood to burn at maximum efficiency. Harmful pollutants are consumed usefully as fuel.



Photovoltaic solar panels on roof generate enough electricity for household use and for exporting power to the National Grid
Redland concrete roof tiles
Rockcell acoustic thermal insulation
Sprayed fibre over Crown wool quilt
Solar panels provide all hot water needed in the summer
300-litre hot water storage tank
All the structural timbers were cut from renewable sources
Triple-glazed windows
Backstop built facing bricks
Fibre insulation blocks
150mm concrete blocks
Wall-tie
Low-voltage light fittings
High-efficiency gas-condenser boiler with weather-linked controls tops up domestic hot water when needed and feeds three radiators
For security there are no windows in the side walls at ground level
House is planned with hot water storage, bathrooms and kitchen stacked one on top of each other to keep pipe runs short, avoiding wasting materials
Wanders wood-strip flooring
Polythene sheet on screed
Concrete slab
High-density insulation
Damp-proof membrane
Hard core
Window lets light into staircase
Wood stove heats living room
Even a candle on the dinner table helps to heat the room
Kitchen incorporates low-energy oven and hob and high-efficiency washing machine, refrigerator and microwave to reduce electricity requirement to a minimum
Conservatory (and porch at front) allow light into centre of house to reduce need for artificial light
GRAPHIC BY TONY GARRETT

to be cold or windy for her not to have the back door open.

The equipment in the energy-efficient kitchen is mainly German: AEG cooker, washer, dishwasher, microwave and fridge. There is a British Gas low-energy oven, and a hob by Stoves of Merseyside. "The fridge uses only 34W, which is nothing," she says. "An ordinary fridge would use five times that, at least. But I do without a freezer; they use a lot. In my last quarter I used an average of only 2.5kW a day for everything — a freezer would have doubled that."

We climb the central staircase, skilfully windowed to avoid needing artificial light in the daytime and needing only three 9W bulbs at night. We enter the loft and Dr Roaf says: "Here's my box of tricks." We are surrounded by electronic gadgetry which is monitoring the life of the house like a patient under intensive care. This includes a solar inverter turning DC

electricity from the roof panels to AC for use in the house, and the Yorkpark gas-condensing boiler system. The boiler is controlled by a small computer linked to the outside air temperature and has a databank showing how much power has been generated since the family moved into the house last April. "Look, it's 4.30pm on a January evening and the inverter shows 250W are being generated. Earlier in the day, when the sun was out, we were getting 2,500W."

The heart of the hot water supply system is a thickly insulated 300-litre tank, and on this winter evening its controls were showing a temperature of 40C — hot enough for a bath. Only three times since April has the water gone much cooler than that. If all the equipment were to be put on at the same time not the solar energy system would not

be able to cope alone and the extra power needed is triggered in automatically from the National Grid at 7.1p a unit. "So we have to be methodical," Dr Roaf says. "Use the equipment in sequence: do the laundry in the morning, charge the car in the afternoon. This way I hardly ever need to import power from Southern Electricity. Most of the time I am exporting it to them — at 2.8p a unit. Over the year we will export more than import. That's about 1,000 exported kWh a year."

Her three-seater Kewet El Jet electric car, capable of 40mph, takes two hours to charge and will then cover 30-35 miles. Dr Roaf has asked Oxford council to install electric points around the city where drivers of electric cars can plug in for a recharge. "But Dr Roaf," they say, "you are the only one with such a car." Not for long if Dr Roaf has her way.

The house and car may save her money, but the long-term aim is to save the world. The whole concept will be very useful for teaching future architects about using alternative energy. "I want to see homes like mine becoming widespread, with the technology to build them becoming cheaper," she says. "Apart from saving money, there is the satisfaction of knowing that the power I use is not the product of any polluting process. I've been teaching energy-efficient architecture at Brookes for five years and I am very aware that we need to learn fast, because the world's energy problems are huge. "How long do we have? Something like eight years' known UK gas reserves are

left," Dr Roaf says. "Frightening, really — and not enough is being done to address the problem. If we could capture just one ten-thousandth of daylight energy we would have more than we get from burning coal, oil and gas put together. And without any pollution. "We want to see a new generation of eco-architects who will be able to design houses even more efficient than mine. We have had some high-calibre people slogging away at it for 20 years. I think their time is coming."

● NEXT WEEK on the Property page: heralding the eco-state.
Cover picture concept by MARTIN HARRISON
Photograph of house by RAY MAIN
Computer manipulation by ANDRE LOCKYER



Dr Roaf's solar-assisted battery car can travel at 40mph

Ruth Gledhill attends a carol service to celebrate the season of Epiphany Execution of faith at the Tower



THE SIGN marked "Instruments of Torture" did little to dispel the windchill from the Thames that made me shiver as I walked under Tower Bridge, over a rattling drawbridge and into the small, Tudor building beside the moat of the Tower of London. Probably because of its location, St Peter Ad Vincula seems a fairly grim chapel, eerie when deserted on a gloomy winter's day. Ad vincula means "in chains" and a handful of other churches in England and Wales are so named, commemorating St Peter's imprisonment in Jerusalem.

We were met at the west door by the chaplain, Canon Gerry Murphy, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who was that day's preacher and who seemed thoughtful. He later confessed that he was mindful of William Laud, the only other Bishop of Bath and Wells other than himself ever to go to Canterbury, and who was executed at the Tower in 1645, after repudiating the accusation of Popery.

We were there for a rare event in the Church of England, a carol service to celebrate not Christmas but Epiphany, the season which begins 12 days after Christmas and celebrates the coming of the Magi. Epiphany, which ends next Friday with the presentation of Christ in the Temple, has at times been

neglected, but has attained more notice of late because it was the season chosen by all denominations to launch the Decade of Evangelism five years ago. The service was in support of the Shaftesbury Society, a leading Christian social welfare charity.

After the procession the Archbishop came to rest near the stone which commemorates Lady Jane Grey, proclaimed Queen when Edward died in 1553 but executed within a year after Mary ascended the throne. Nearby lie the bodies of Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard, the two saints John Fisher and Thomas More, and many others. Lord Macaulay, in his 1848 *History of England*, described the chapel as the saddest spot on earth. "Death is associated there, not as in Westminster and St Paul's, with genius and virtue, with public veneration and with imperishable renown... but with whatever is darkest in human nature and in human destiny." But this does not do the chapel justice. As the Shaftesbury Society gives hope to the hopeless, so this chapel and its inspiring chaplain, through their living witness to those unjustly condemned who are buried there, give faith to those without faith.

I was still brooding on the price of fame, power, or of simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time, when the first lesson, from Genesis I began. "The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters," read the altar server. "God said, let there be light." At that point the clouds parted outside and shafts of sunlight streamed through the windows. I noticed that the church was crowded, and all present seemed cheerful. Hymns were sung with enthusiasm, and Dr Carey was listened to intently.

A few clouds returned at the end. It was helpful to be reminded as I left that St Peter had a miraculous escape from his Jerusalem prison.

At your service
★ A five-star guide ★

CHAPLAIN: Canon Genesvise Murphy.
ARCHITECTURE: Unforgettable. William the Conqueror built the White Tower in 1078. St Peter's was completed in 1520 after an earlier chapel burnt down. ★★★★★
SERMON: Some might ask themselves if their journey to God was necessary, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury. "But there are reasons why the journey is worth persevering with." ★★★★★
LITURGY: Nine lessons interspersed with Epiphany carols and hymns. ★★★★★
MUSIC: Inspiring and beautiful carols from the choir. ★★★★★
SPIRITUAL HIGH: A reminder that ghosts of a barbaric past can never be dispelled. ★★★★★
AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Sherry and orange juice in the cosy crypt. ★★★★★

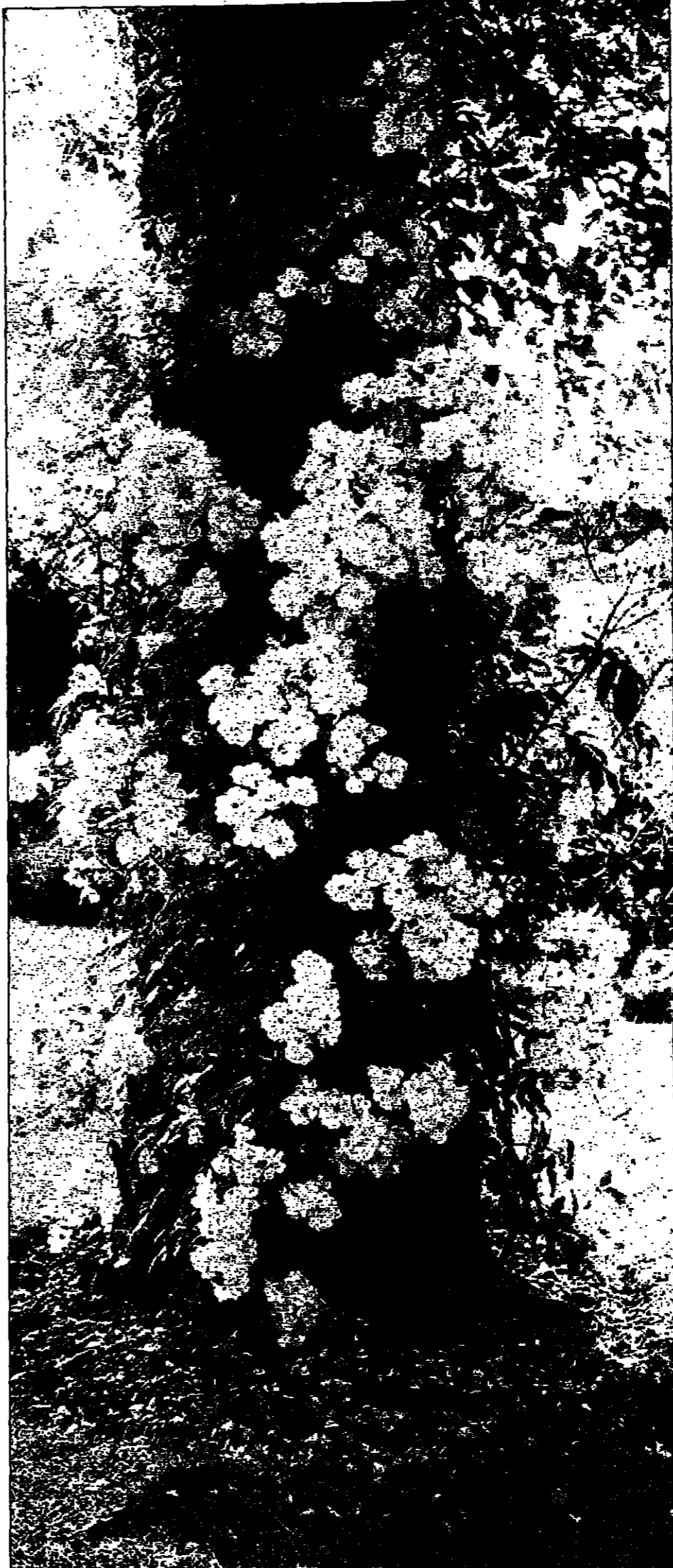
The Chapel Royal of St Peter Ad Vincula with HM Tower of London, EC3N 4AB (0171-858 5689).

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GARDENING

How to gild a tree with pillars of living colour

Stephen Anderton on the wisdom of using trees for climbing plants, such as wisteria, ivy and roses



Summer sensation: a vibrant 'Rambling Rector' rose entwining the trunk of an old pear tree

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q I brought back custard apple pips from Madeira and now have a young plant in a pot. I do not have a window ledge free of central heating, and wonder how to give it humidity and warmth. I have tried placing a perforated plastic bag over it to create a moist atmosphere. — Mrs J. Shoucair, Chislehurst, Kent.

A The name custard apple is used to describe several species of the genus *Annona*. The commonest is the cherimoya, *Annona cherimola*. You can grow this small tree in a pot, but fruit production is tricky without a warm greenhouse. The conical fruits take many months to develop and need pollinating by hand. *A. cherimola* is the hardest species and does not require tropical air moisture levels. On the other hand, it will hate the dryness of central heating. Try standing the pot on a tray of moist gravel, and attach a mossy pole to the trunk. Do not use a plastic bag covering, because this may cause moulds.

Q In my garden I have what I take to be 'Himalaya Giant' blackberries, which are rampant. The plants make far more new growth than I have space to fit in. Does the new growth contribute nutrients to the crop on the old growth, and how should I train the stems? — J.R. Pope, Tisbury, Wiltshire.

A 'Himalaya Giant' is certainly rampant. It thinks nothing of making shoots 20ft long in a season. Varieties as vigorous as this are best trained not in a fan but to the opposite side of the plant each year, to save the worst disentangling of old from new. Cut off the old canes as soon as they have fruited. Weave the new ones up and down on your wires, in a sideways S-pattern, and try not to stop the ends until as late as possible, as this induces sideshoots. You could replace it with a smaller, more manageable variety, such as 'Waldo'. There are thornless varieties such as 'Black Satin' and 'Thornfree', but the flavour is not as

good. 'Loch Ness' is, perhaps, the best thornless variety for flavour, and sufficiently restrained in its growth to be fan trained.

Q My patio of reconstructed stone becomes dark and silny in wet weather and requires soapy water and hard brushing. I do not want to face that job every year. What is the cure, and should the slabs be sealed in some way? — B. Lewis, Bicester, Oxford.

A I would hesitate to seal the paving, because the sealant would soon wear off in areas of heavy use. A peeling surface might look worst of all. Paving in shade is always more prone to algae growth, so make the most of the sunlight first. Check, too, that rain runs off the surface adequately. The household cleanser Flash, applied regularly with a stiff yard brush, keeps algae reasonably at bay, but to kill it properly you would need to use a proprietary product, such as Armillitox, which is safe to use where turf adjoins. There are stronger masonry biocides, which last longer (a season, if you are lucky) but they are less environmentally friendly. Seek further help from a builder's merchant.

Q Can I grow a mulberry tree as a shrub in a tub on my balcony? — P.C. Dartmouth, Devon.

A The mulberry is a tough tree and can stand plenty of cold, so that should not be a problem. Be sure the tub is well drained, so it does not freeze in a waterlogged state. You will need to prune it back a little every year to keep it in bounds, and to report it every year (or two), trimming back the longest roots, teasing off

some of the old compost, and replotting in fresh compost. Tough or not, it pays to protect the tub in winter with bubble film and sacking.

Q Last year I raised four kiwi fruit plants from seed and brought them on in the greenhouse where they have grown very energetically. How do I continue to grow them, as I can find no literature on them? — K.W. Beer, Cardiff.

A The kiwi fruit, or Chinese gooseberry (*Actinidia chinensis*), is a rampant climber. You could grow it out of doors as an ornamental for its large, furry leaves, but for fruiting it needs to be under glass, with a vigorous pruning system similar to that used for grape vines. They can just about be grown in a large pot. If you want good fruit, it is advisable to buy a reliable named variety. For further information, consult the relevant extract from the Royal Horticultural Society's *Encyclopaedia on Fruit* (ISBN 1-85732-905-8, £7.99).

Q Why do my outdoor tomatoes split? I have them in grow-bags and watered them every evening through last summer's hot weather. Then they split when the rain came. — G. Storey, Ithen Abbas, Hampshire.

A Hot and dry conditions, followed by heavy watering, leads to a sudden influx of water which bursts the fruit. For all your care with the watering, the sudden arrival, after prolonged heat, of abundant moisture in the air as well as the soil will cause plants to drink deeply and pop their buttons. If splitting occurs even during hot weather, try watering morning and evening, with fewer plants to a bag.

Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: *Garden Answers*, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9JW. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

There is nothing so strong as a tree to support a rampant climber. In Cadogan Place, Knightsbridge, west London, a wisteria once grew 60ft up into the head of a Tree of Heaven, until the 1987 storm brought the tree down. But gardeners always worry about what damage a climber, particularly ivy, can do to a tree. The usual answer is: less than you think.

One of my strongest memories while visiting gardens open to the public last year was seeing a mature silver variegated holly at Long Close, Woodhouse Eaves, in Leicestershire. Into the holly were growing a free-flowering wisteria and a pale-pink form of *Clematis montana*. The two were flowering simultaneously and, although the silvery holly foliage did not offer a striking contrast, between the three of them they made an extraordinary tower of silver, pink and mauve; colour poured off in swags and eddied into adjacent

lum speciosum, turning a strong as a tree to support a rampant climber. In Cadogan Place, Knightsbridge, west London, a wisteria once grew 60ft up into the head of a Tree of Heaven, until the 1987 storm brought the tree down. But gardeners always worry about what damage a climber, particularly ivy, can do to a tree. The usual answer is: less than you think.

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The real risk from climbers is that they will rob the tree itself of light

Similar in habit to ivy, but deciduous, is the climbing *Hydrangea petiolaris*. It looks marvellous grown up into an old pine tree when its creamy, flat heads of flower open in June and you catch a hint of coconut scent on the air. It takes a little more starting off than ivy but, once it is established, it will luxuriate in a tree and require the same periodic cutting out of chunks of flowering growth in winter.

So if you have ivy in a garden tree and it does not offend, keep it in hand by pruning. Take out some growth every winter and give it to flower arrangers whom you wish to be in your debt.

And when you do prune, notice how many old birds' nests there are in the mature growth. The forking habit of the twigs, high up and evergreen, means that birds love it for nesting. If you are clearing out a great deal of ivy from an old tree, it is no bad idea to wear a mask against the cascades of dust and birdlime which are released.

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WEEKEND TIPS

- Cut back ivy and creepers on the house to the roof line, and erect training wires on walls.
- Pot up or replant hippeastrums in a soil-based compost, such as John Innes No 2, and keep fairly dry until growth starts.
- Remove weak or crossing growth on hybrid tea and floribunda roses, but delay final pruning.
- Sow early-crop broad beans in pots under glass ready for spring planting.

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"Architectural" gardens can be presented to best effect in winter, and this is true of Plas Brodawn in Wales, created by the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, designer of nearby Portmeorion. The house occupies a spectacular position on the edge of Snowdonia, and Williams-Ellis designed his garden to make the most of breathtaking views. These are framed by yew hedges and topiary. Horticulture is understated, and ornamental flourishes, such as fine urns atop tall piers, stone balustrading and statues, are the primary decorations. The link with the surrounding countryside is dramatically presented by a path leading from the garden through woodland to the watchtower that Williams-Ellis built on a natural crag.

Claremont Landscape Garden, Esher, Surrey (01372 469411)

In Esher, off the A3 Portsmouth Road. Open: Jan to March, Nov and Dec (except 25th), daily except Mon, 10am-5pm (except 1st April to Oct, Mon to Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat and Sun, Bank Holiday Monday, 10am-7pm. Entrance £2.

Winter garden visiting should focus on places that reward a good walk rather than a potter,

Lakeside splendour: Claremont

and Britain's historic landscape gardens feature prominently in this category. One of the most distinguished, at Claremont, lies less than 15 miles from the centre of London and rewards the visitor seeking education or exercise. It was developed by the central figures of the landscape movement in the 18th century: Sir John Vanbrugh, Charles Bridgeman, William Kent and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Their work saw the garden progress from

Bridgeman's semi-formal landscape to one that, within half a century, had been carefully naturalised by Kent and Brown, while retaining a number of its earlier highlights, such as Bridgeman's impressive grass amphitheatre and Vanbrugh's castellated belvedere. After becoming threatened by decay and undergrowth, during the 1970s Claremont benefited from one of the National Trust's most ambitious garden restorations: a jungle of laurel and potted rhododendron was removed, the terraces of the amphitheatre recreated and buildings renovated. Claremont is a revelation in the skills of creating a garden with trees, grass, water and buildings.

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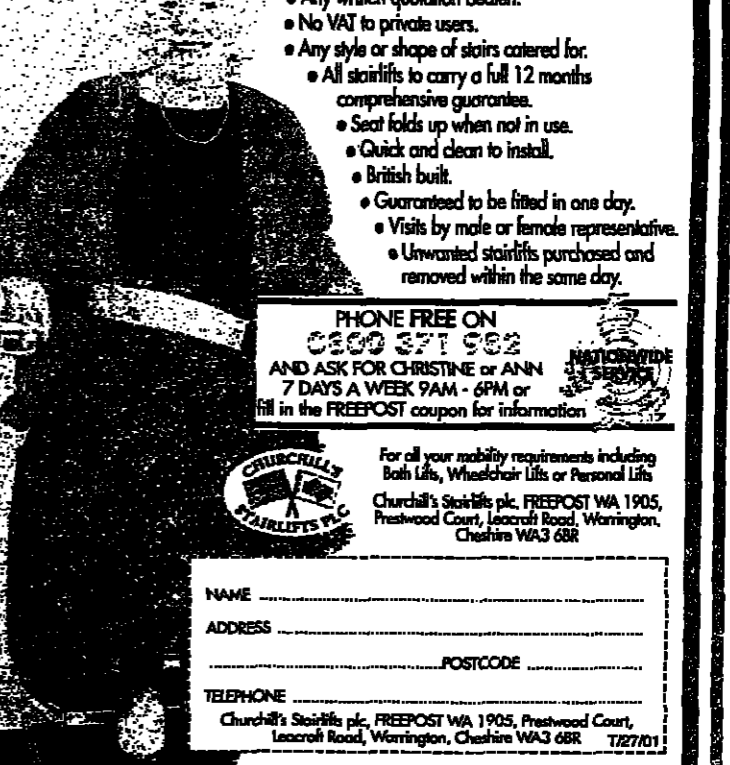
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BOOKS

Damn, what a publisher

A heartfelt tribute to a man of exemplary faith and vision

A naunt of mine used to say that there was nothing like a quick survey of other people's husbands to reconcile one to one's own. I suspect that that is precisely how most writers feel about their publishers — an exasperation with daily habits balanced by a recognition of the very real dangers of an alternative. (In any case, in these perilous marital and publishing times, suppose nobody else wants you?)

These reflections were brought on by an oddly heartfelt occasion in the publishing world last week. I say oddly because publishing is not going in much for heart at the moment but more for an unsettling mixture of commerce (which it does not appear much good at) and confusion (at which it seems to excel).

The occasion was a farewell dinner of 250 people — publishers, agents, journalists and authors — at the Merchant Taylors' Hall for Paul Scherer, the retiring chairman and chief executive of Transworld Publishing. What made it uncommon was not the heavyweight guest list but that nobody had come merely to network or nosebag, but instead out of real admiration and affection for the guest of honour.

I ought to confess now that Scherer has been my own paperback publisher since I turned to writing contemporary fiction. More than that, he is the first publisher in a writing career of more than 20 years at whom I have been able to have a really good look, partly because of the sort of man he is and partly because he always ran a very open company.

To a writer, a publisher is a very different matter from an editor. An editor is necessarily your intimate: an editor can become your best mate with whom you feel perfectly free to quarrel shrilly about pet metaphors and unhappy endings. But a publisher, to be of service to an author, must keep his/her distance. One hopes for a friendship of course, but it should be a dignified one that recognises, with mutual respect, an equally mutual business dependence. Writers, rather like Jerusalem on the *Mappa Mundi*, see

themselves as the centre of the world: it is imperative that publishers, to make the best of those writers, should see the whole of the map.

The part of that map occupied by Transworld when Scherer joined in 1982 was, to say the least, undistinguished. It was losing £1 million a year, it had a funny name — casually bestowed by a former senior executive after the airline he happened to be travelling on at the moment of naming the baby — and a funny address, in the Uxbridge Road, which is, as Scherer liked to explain kindly to nifty metropolitan journalists, "just this side of Bath".

Thirteen years later, Transworld is at the top of the publishing tree with profits of more than £7 million and a revenue increase last year of 37 per cent. (There are no plans to change either name or address.)

This is plainly the work of an excellent businessman, which Scherer is. He is also an equally excellent people manager. He has said that the first essential of a good publishing house is the authors and the second is having the right people in the right jobs. But there is more to it than that. I do not think it is irrelevant that Scherer is a practising Roman Catholic and an enthusiastic family man, since there is nothing like family and faith to prevent one from ever taking oneself too seriously. Or for helping one to realise that other people, even the most troublesome, are fellow travellers.

We shall miss him. We shall miss his principles and his unobnoxiousness, his humour and his capacity to be peacefully himself, whether addressing a trade conference on overheads control, or waltzing gravely in response to a dare from the sales reps, around a dance floor in Cyprus with a tower of water (or was it whiskey?) glasses on his head. But he has taught us writers so much, not least to realise that not only do we not need to know everything about the passage of our books to the shops but also that there are people who actually know better about such things than we do. And he has also taught us what to aim for in a publisher.



JOANNA TROLLOPE

Envy of the drinking classes

Work, once an onerous chore, has become a desperately sought-after and jealously guarded privilege, says Harry Ritchie

IT MIGHT be hard to recall now but there was a time when people took employment for granted. One of the grimmer achievements of three Conservative governments has been to banish that complacency and transform jobs into objects of desperate desire, no matter how mundane. "What do you say to a graduate with a job?" runs the joke. "I'll have a Big Mac, please."

Wearing a daft stripey uniform and doling out meat in buns is a glaring exception to the rule. But, as we are now anxious to appreciate, most jobs provide various benefits besides the wage packet: a reason to

get up in the morning, a sense of structure to the days and weeks, and above all, the camaraderie of workmates — these are the boons envied by the retired or unemployed in *Talking Work*, a compilation of first-hand accounts of working (and non-working) lives.

Trevor Blackwell and Jeremy Seabrook present job descriptions ranging from Harry Price's memory of his time as a coachman and

TALKING WORK: An Oral History
By Trevor Blackwell & Jeremy Seabrook
Faber, £15.99

glimpses of amazing autobiography — that of Ada Carey, for example, born in 1902 to a life of unrelenting hardship, or of Len Greenham, who spent 46 proud years in the leather trade, where he perfected the now-lost craft of the morocco-grainer. The most arcane job was that of the young Terry Hamlyn, who started out in a Lyons Corner House in the early 1960s as a light-bulb changer. Terry's subsequent career of duck-

ing and diving becomes more typical as the monologues move towards the present day, partly because the authors ignore any employee who might have a conventional, bourgeois profession. One young interviewee does describe himself as middle-class, but since he earns a bit on the side as well as claiming his dole, perhaps he is mistaken.

This is a rather ramshackle book. It is also a partial study, since all the interviewees belong to the urban working class. Even so, it makes for fascinating reading. Were I the authors' foreman, I would slap them on the back.

Interstellar yuppies blast off

THE MAINSTAYS of science fiction change with each generation of science. Now that we already have the crude basics of nanotechnology — working prototype machines the size of a grain of rice — and can manufacture replacements for a growing number of body parts, "neural nanonics" and "infra-red implants" have become the stock in trade of the sci-fi industry. What differs most in visions of the future is the social set-up.

William Gibson and Greg Bear, America's brightest stars, respectively imagine a

THE REALITY DYSFUNCTION
By Peter F. Hamilton
Macmillan, £16.99

values, taken to the high heavens. Terra-compatible worlds are seen as investment opportunities: free trade is the basis of interplanetary civilisation, and a few wars: there is a *Star Trek*-style confederation but also a galactic Christian kingdom: worlds are frequently colonised on an ethnic basis, giving us a Polish planet called Mazowiecki and even an isolationist Norfolk idyll: a world called Norfolk Tears — is the most sought-after drink in the universe.

Hamilton divides humanity into Edenites — genetically engineered space-dwellers with telepathic affinity to their biotechnological homes and ships — and Adamites, effectively the Luddites of the far future, who cling to quaint concepts such as religion.

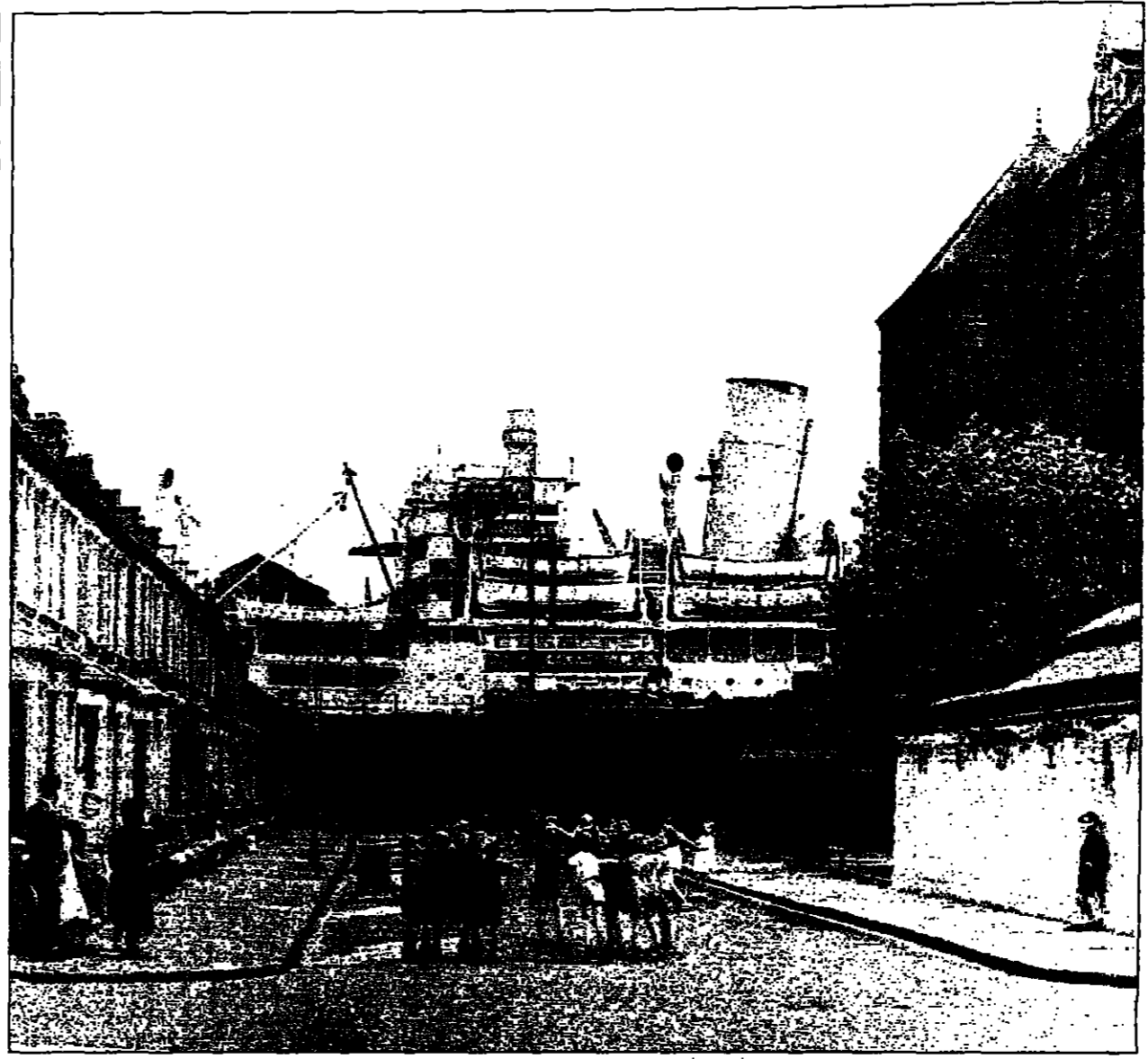
Which brings us to the great central theme of this book — life, the universe and everything. The cast includes a Satanist ready to stir revolt on a pioneer world with living conditions like California in the 1840s, a teenage girl who has inherited an outcast haven empire which also holds the archaeological key to the mysterious suicide of an ancient alien race, and a free-booting cosmic Casanova.

This is an intergalactic adventure story laced with ironies, insights and held together by a transcending central plot: absolutely vintage science fiction. Hamilton puts British sci-fi back into interstellar overdrive.

PETER MILLAR



Hamilton: vintage sci-fi



All shipshape: Saville Road in London's Docklands once had a dry dock at the end of it. Now it backs onto the terminal buildings of City Airport. From *Classic Ships: Romance and Reality* by Nicholas Faith (Boxtree, £17.99)

Sarah Johnson suggests some titles to explain sex, death and French

Facts of life

CHILDREN read about sex early these days. Most people can remember vividly the first book they ever read which had "real" sex in it (as opposed to Mr Toad's problems fighting off men while disguised as a washerwoman), so it matters which book takes this role in a child's life. I would rather my children remembered John Loveday's Western frontier tale, *Goodbye Buffalo Sky* (Bloomsbury, £6.99) than any of the hot pink paperbacks about Barbie-doll teenagers with "boyfriend trouble" that clog up bookshop shelves.

An artist brings his Indian bride, Two Songs, to a frontier settlement, but is killed by her spurned Indian lover. Her friend Cappy walks out of school after a row: 13-year-old Alice stands by him, and as Two Songs needs their protection from the white settlers who feel she will bring trouble (and they are right), it seems that childhood is over for Cappy and Alice.

CHILDREN



Mayan tale: *People of Corn*

The tensions lead up to a subtly-written scene of attempted rape that younger children need only understand at their own levels, and Alice and Cappy decide to set off with Two Songs to find her own people. Loveday's picture of their feelings will be memorable. For ages nine and over.

Younger children are often more worried about death than sex, so look for Sheila and Kate Isherwood's *My Granddad* (OUP, £3.99), one of the best "situation books": *People of Corn* (Little, Brown, £9.99), a Mayan creation legend retold by Mary-Joan Gerson, could open up discussions about what makes people different from animals — and is enhanced by dazzling

gouache paintings from Carla Golemba. Jane Kurtz, who impressed last year with *Memo on the Mountain*, has written *Almaz and the Lion* (Gollancz, £8.99), another graceful Ethiopian folk-tale with a message about building relationships that should not be missed by stepchildren and step-parents all over the world.

Every posh nursery school seems to teach French these days (although German or Spanish would be more useful) so Opal Dunn's *Un Deux Trois* (Frances Lincoln, £8.99) will be popular. She has collected some charming French nursery rhymes that parents will enjoy reciting with their under-fives, or with five to eights learning French.

Some colourful fun with language for even younger children (two to four) is contained in *Sleep, Sleep* (Little, Brown, £3.99), a multi-lingual lullaby by Nancy Van Laan with lovely, bright pictures by Holly Meade.

to be read by six-plus, or for reading to four-to-sixes. *People of Corn* (Little, Brown, £9.99), a Mayan creation legend retold by Mary-Joan Gerson, could open up discussions about what makes people different from animals — and is enhanced by dazzling

NOVELS IN BRIEF

Weird sisters

THE TIMID, BENDING VENUS
By John Adlard
Tabb House, £12.95
ON HIS way to a conference on feminism in a haunted Scottish castle, Stephen — a disaffected part-time lecturer — sees two young women bathing naked in a river. They are the ghosts of two sisters, Sophie and Ada, who lived at the castle in the early years of the century. The beautiful and headstrong Sophie decides that she must secure him for herself — even at the expense of his incipient affair with Galina, also attending the conference. The triangular relationship is counterpointed by developments at the conference. Poet John Adlard's post-humously published novel is only 150 pages long, and yet it contains more wit and insight than many twice as long.

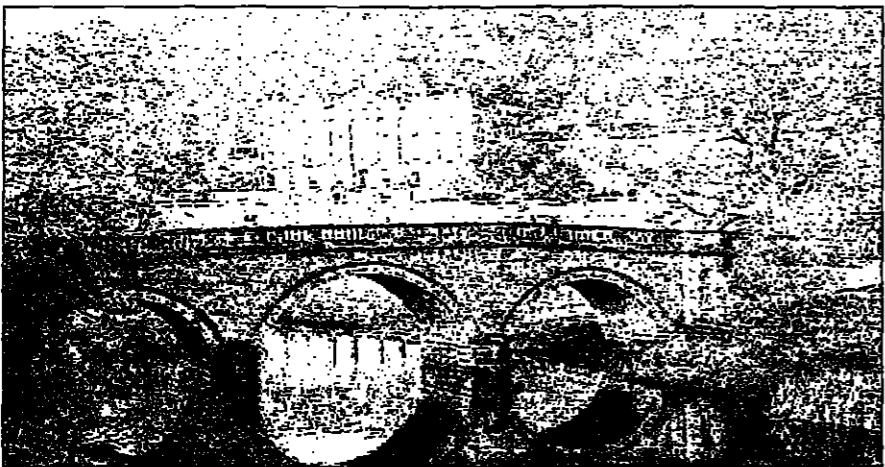
the funeral of his murdered cousin Marty. Finding the murderer will be no easy matter, because Benedict's family, the Macallans — a Mafia-like clan with sinister powers — are so universally loathed that almost anyone could have done it. Brencley writes compellingly but his narrative sometimes gets lost in Gothic special effects.

AN IMAGE TO DIE FOR
By Mike Phillips
HarperCollins, £14.99
SAM READ, journalist and reluctant sleuth. More importantly, he belongs to the inner city; he could win a Nobel Prize for street wisdom. His job, for a television company, is to trace a missing black layabout who might have committed the murder for which another man is in jail. Read's search unearths deeper, scarier issues, involving the complex past lives of his television colleagues. He moves effortlessly between media-land and decaying inner London. This is Mike Phillips's best novel, brutal and caring, totally authentic.

DEAD OF LIGHT
By Chaz Brencley
Hodder & Stoughton, £12
BENEDICT, a university student, finds the settled world of academia giving way to something darker when he attends

Contributors: Christina Koning, Marcel Berlins

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The awards, in association with pensions specialist NPI, now moves onto the voting stage and today we publish a voting form, right, containing the 16 short-listed finalists. You can also vote for *The Times* Family award, by selecting a property you consider makes a special effort to entertain and inform adults and children. The winning property will be presented with a crystal trophy by Lord Inglewood, under secretary of state at the Department of National Heritage, at a gala reception in London in April. By registering your vote, you will automatically be entered into a free prize draw for the chance to attend the ceremony with a guest. Coffee table books illustrating historic buildings, worth £20 each, will go to 20 runners-up.

Post the voting form to: *The Times/NPI National Heritage Awards*, Spero Communications, Gramplan House, Meridian Gate, Marsh Wall, London E14 9XT. Closing date is Saturday, March 2, 1996.

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Cotehele	Stokesay Castle
Culzean Castle	Warwick Castle

The *Times* Family Award
Please tick one only

Bolslovers Castle	Dover Castle
Brodsworth Hall	Fountains Abbey
Chatsworth	Warwick Castle

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Peter Jay analyses the betrayal of American KGB spy Aldrich Ames. Stephen Tumim on David Rose's examination of the failure of British justice. Matthew Parris on television's influence on the lives of our children.

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

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2	CROSS CHANNEL Julian Barnes (<i>Cape</i>)	£10.99	7 2
3	DELIA SMITH'S WINTER COLLECTION Delia Smith (BBC)	£15.99	1 14
4	IMMEDIATE ACTION Andy McNab (<i>Bantam</i>)	£15.99	8 12
5	THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY Chris Ryan (<i>Century</i>)	£15.99	0 11
6	THE CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY (OUP)	£14.99	9 3
7	CHRONICLE OF THE YEAR (Dorling Kindersley)	£9.99	0 1
8	DELIA SMITH'S SUMMER COLLECTION Delia Smith (BBC)	£14.99	0 13
9	FILES: GROUND ZERO Kevin J. Anderson (<i>HarperCollins</i>)	£9.99	0 1
10	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE Daniel Goleman (Bloomsbury)	£16.99	0 1
PAPERBACK			
1	THE STATE WE'RE IN Will Hutton (<i>Vintage</i>)	£7.99	2 3
2	SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS David Guterson (Bloomsbury)	£5.99	1 18
3	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM Kate Atkinson (<i>Black Swan</i>)	£5.99	7 2
4	THE JUROR George Dawes Green (<i>Bantam</i>)	£5.99	3 3
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13	HOLocaust Paul Johnson (<i>Phoenix</i>)	£4.99	0 1
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15	THE HIGHWAY CODE (HMSO)	£9.99	0 1
16	HISTORY OF ENGLAND Jane Austen (<i>Penguin</i>)	£6.60	0 2
17	ALAN CLARK DIARIES: THATCHER'S FALL Alan Clark (<i>Phoenix</i>)	£6.60	0 1
18	SONGS OF INNOCENCE & EXPERIENCE William Blake (<i>Phoenix</i>)	£6.60	0 1
19	UTOPIA St Thomas More (<i>Phoenix</i>)	£6.60	0 1
20	A GUIDE TO HAPPINESS Epicurus (<i>Penguin</i>)	£6.60	14 2

هكزا من الأصل

BOOKS

Facing a Parliament of fowls

Edwina Currie's new blockbuster sticks to its feminist agenda, says Elizabeth Buchan



Putting the stiletto into politics

PARLIAMENT is not a merciful place and the spectacle of a politician licking her wounds fascinatingly overlays the professional slickness of Edwina Currie's sequel to *A Parliamentary Affair*.

The plot rattles away. Divorced and now parted from Roger Dickson, her lover and the new Prime Minister, Elaine Stalker has been promoted to junior minister at the Department of Health, Welfare and the Family. America has a female President, a single currency unites Europe, but not Britain, and President Chirac has 12 women in his Cabinet.

A WOMAN'S PLACE
By Edwina Currie
Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99

excellent cook. Should she, can she devote more time to this paradigm? Elaine is also worried about her daughter, who is recovering from a rape and the interest displayed in her by Bets, a ghastly hack. Finally, there is Graham, a mental patient at large in the community with a fixation on Elaine. Loaded with — justifiable — ironies, matters are brought to a head over the closure of a mental hospital.

Hints of vendetta, gossip, playful reference to the figures we know and love and skilful plundering of topical issues fuel the jolly Post-Modernist jostle between the real and the fiction-

al. (By the end of the book, a retired Michael Heseltine has lost his hair and Teresa Gorman "has stopped taking the tablets and shrunk to a benign little granny" — crude perhaps, but it has the satisfying crunch of a well-aimed slug.) Clearly, the author understands the ingredients of the "big" read, milks her feminist agenda appropriately and throws in a bit of special pleading. "Ordinary people," George concludes, musing on his love, "do not aspire to become MPs, let alone ministers."

Now we know. Yet what gives the novel its bottom and immediacy is its portrait of life at Westminster: its smothering, exhausting, destabilising ethos, the damage it inflicts on family life, its huge frustrations. "Brussels on one side and quangos on the other.

Decisions are taken by others but the Government is held to account. "I feel as though I'm vanishing," Elaine cries, and if she cannot dodge round the posts, then Parliament is a dehumanising place, indeed.

Brush strokes and flesh tones

SUMMER IN FEBRUARY
By Jonathan Smith
Little, Brown, £12.99

IF YOU are going to put real people in a novel — often a dubious enterprise — artists are the best choice. They are more likely to drink, have busy, complicated sex lives and live and work in interesting and beautiful surroundings than, say, structural engineers or microbiologists.

For *Summer in February*, Jonathan Smith has focused on the group of painters who settled in Lamorna Cove in Cornwall just before the First World War. Their leader was Alfred Munnings, a future president of the Royal Academy, but then as a young painter of exceptional promise, a reckless, lewd, laddish tussler, redeemed by his talent and his gift for friendship. Laura Knight, already painting her splashy, vigorous canvases, is captivated by Munnings; her fastidious artist husband, Harold, less so.

Oddly, Munnings's closest chum is a diligent Army officer turned land agent Captain Gilbert Evans, who is everything that Munnings is not: a model of rectitude, decency and restraint. Proving that they have at least one thing in common, they both fall in love with the same girl: Florence Carter-Wood, newly arrived in Cornwall to study with the renowned art teacher Stanhope Forbes.

As capricious as she is beautiful, Florence marries Munnings and then discovers that Gilbert is the one she really loves. The price she pays for choosing the wrong man is a terrible one and casts shadows over the lives of the two men, haunting them down all the years.

This is a book rich in incident and richer still in its subtle and intricate analysis of emotional depths. It is also a meticulous re-creation of artistic life near the beginning of this century. The glittering Cornish coastline, the ravishing flesh tones of artists' models are always described in a painterly way as, for instance, when the sea lifts itself up "in big long surges of grey lit up by a multitude of white dots", or when Laura Knight, eyeing up Florence, thinks that she has "the tone and quality of a quiet sitting-room". It is as though a fascinating picture has been captured in words.

PENNY PERRICK

NEW IN PAPERBACK



Henry Green: a stylist admired by Auden and Updike

PARTY GOING
By Henry Green
Harvill, £8.99

FIRST published by the Hogarth Press in 1939, this story of a group of socialites marooned by Stygian fog in a London railway station is a comedy of manners with strong symbolic undertones. En route to a house-party in the South of France, the friends of rich young Max Adey have great difficulties reaching their rendezvous, but these are as nothing compared with the inconveniences awaiting them as they are forced to bivouac in the station hotel. Tiresome farewells are protracted; someone falls ill; and, worst of all, flirtations are obliged to be conducted in public, without any means of escape short of leaving through one door and returning through it shortly after.

As worldly Max and his would-be inamorata Julia look down from their privi-

leged oasis on the vast uneasy throng of frustrated passengers below, they see a Persian carpet of lost souls. Groups with luggage look like monuments in a graveyard. Within the hotel, farcical cross-purposes abound, as manipulative Angela terrorises her beau and Max's beautiful mistress Annabel coolly paints her fingernails. These women are lampooned ungenially as a fiendishly competitive species, drawing on tanks of self-confidence like camels crossing a desert. But even here the atmosphere of delayed departure for the underworld remains.

This powerfully idiosyncratic stylist has long been admired by fellow writers, from Auden to Updike. For the common reader, as for the scholar, the pleasures and possible interpretations are many. We can look forward to seeing the eight other Green novels reissued.

A PERSONAL MATTER
By Kenzaburo Oe
Picador, £5.99

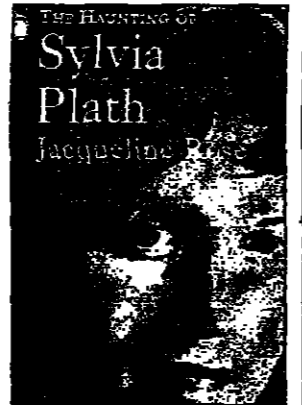
THE CENTRAL character of this novel, whose author won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1994, is Bird, a frustrated little man in his thirties, still, significantly, known by his adolescent nickname. He teaches English to college rejects at an Osaka crammer and dreams of escaping to Africa. When his unloved wife gives birth to an apparently brain-damaged child, shock and disappointment drive him to seek oblivion in drink and the arms of an ex-girlfriend, and to increasingly frantic attempts to destroy his son. He is finally forced to realise that he must stop running away and take responsibility not just for the baby, but for himself.



VOLGA, VOLGA
A Voyage Down the Great River
By Lesley Chamberlain
Picador, £7.99

LESLEY Chamberlain's engrossing account of her journey down the Volga does not simply describe her colourful personal encounter with Russia's mythic waterway and the people who depend upon it. *Volga, Volga* also provides a lucid historical exploration of the river and its decline, and an insightful evocation of the culture of which it is a part. The river "parallels a physical dehumanisation and it suggests itself as an obvious metaphor for the decay of the Soviet regime and the spiritual pollution of the Russian populus". A bleak vision indeed, but a book well worth reading.

Contributors: Alison Burns, Fiona Hook, Claire Messud, Tania Glyde



THE HAUNTING OF SYLVIA PLATH
By Jacqueline Rose
Virago, £8.99

SYLVIA PLATH's real selling point now seems to be the very public lengths her ex-husband, the poet Ted Hughes, and fellow executors of her estate will go to prevent new facts about her emerging for the public to feast on. Jacqueline Rose has clearly felt the full blast of their considerable powers, but has not given up, and has uncovered a lot of interesting material. Apparently, on that famous first date, Sylvia only bit Ted on the cheek after he'd ripped off her hairband and earrings. But then, as Rose points out, can we trust Plath's account either? This very readable book does much to lay a grand, raw ghost to rest.

Editor in love child snatch bid

DENNIS LUXFORD, editor of *The Source*, tabloid scourge of Tory sleaze, is a journalist of limited moral integrity but he has kept one sensational secret about a minister, even though its disclosure could topple the Government. Charlotte, the ten-year-old daughter of the ambitious, high-flying Home Office minister Eve Bowen, is his, conceived during a few nights of passion at an annual party conference in Blackpool, when he was a mere political reporter and she a young MP. Their brief liaison was revealed to nobody; they had never met since. Then Charlotte is kidnapped and her abductor demands that Luxford splash his parental responsibility on *The Source's* front page. But who else could have known of it?

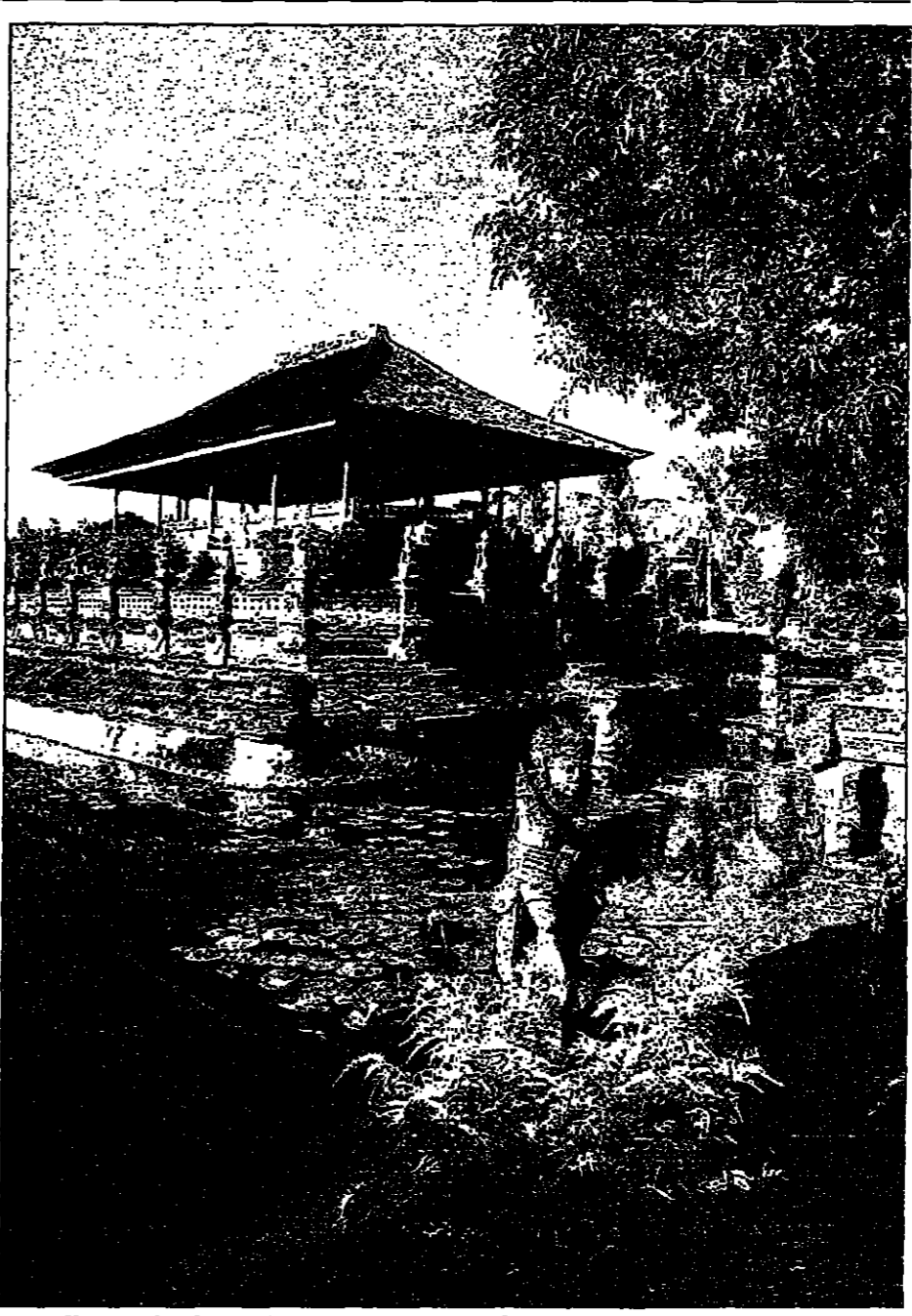
The search for Charlotte, secret at first because Bowen believes the abduction to be a trick by Luxford, turns into a wider inquiry when there is another kidnapping. The tuff Detective Inspector Lynley, his love-life at a crossroads, and his earthy sidekick Sergeant Havers, her love-life non-existent, investigate in London and the Wiltshire countryside. After an awkward, not very believable start a few books ago, their profes-

IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY
By Elizabeth George
Bantam, £16.99

sional partnership has developed interestingly. Elizabeth George believes in giving her characters room to develop. Bowen's cold dislike of Luxford, the dishonest marriages which both have contrived and the lack of warmth and understanding towards their children are conveyed with subtlety and fine writing. George is also a superb purveyor of fear, malevolent atmosphere (never has Wiltshire seemed so scary) and warped minds. She has researched well: the worlds of Parliament and tabloid journalism have the whiff of veracity. Above all, she has a gift for sheer storytelling and invention — in spades.

Nobody can accuse George of short-changing her readers in volume. This is a long, intricate book, at nearly 500 pages. Yet so cleverly does she manage the narrative threads, so convincingly do her characters behave on the edge of their emotions, so startling are the twists to her tale that I could have read more.

MARCEL BERLINS



Paradise regained: pavilion in a royal garden, from *Balinese Gardens*, photographs by Luca Invernizzi Tettoni, text by William Warren (Thames & Hudson, £29.95)

Andrew Knight traces the pugnacious career of a Canadian press mogul with a mushrooming global empire

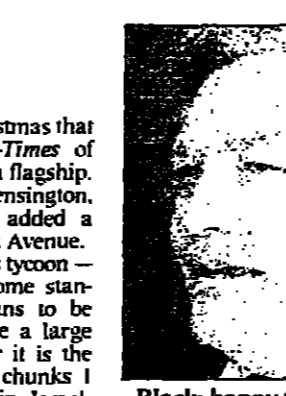
Black rises out of the blue

SHADES OF BLACK
By Richard Siklos
Heinemann, £20

controls Southam. By Christmas that year he added the *Sun-Times* of Chicago to be an American flagship. And to his mansions in Kensington, Toronto and Miami, he added a flagship apartment in Park Avenue.

Black, in short, is a press tycoon — not yet a large one by some standards, but one who means to be large. This book will have a large readership in Canada, for it is the best of several. Even the chunks I thought I could skip — in Israel, Australia and Canada — told such compelling business stories that I could not put it down. The biography is lively, broadly accurate, none of its slight errors harming the general truth of a well-researched tale.

Friendlier than some would be, Richard Siklos penetrates Black's "thin skin" accurately, using humor-



Black: happy to share the joke

special line in malapropism, are the stocks in trade of the "verbal punch-ups" which Black "enjoys". He seems constantly to reassure himself that he is a worthy successor to his colourful and, in the end, reclusive father.

The result is odd. Black has sued for libel repeatedly, like Robert Maxwell, and always won well short of the court steps. His financial shuffling of assets has yielded the values necessary to buy newspapers, frequently crossing the line of controversy but never, so far as one can see, of probity. Along the way his tirades have become a joke, relished as much by himself as anyone.

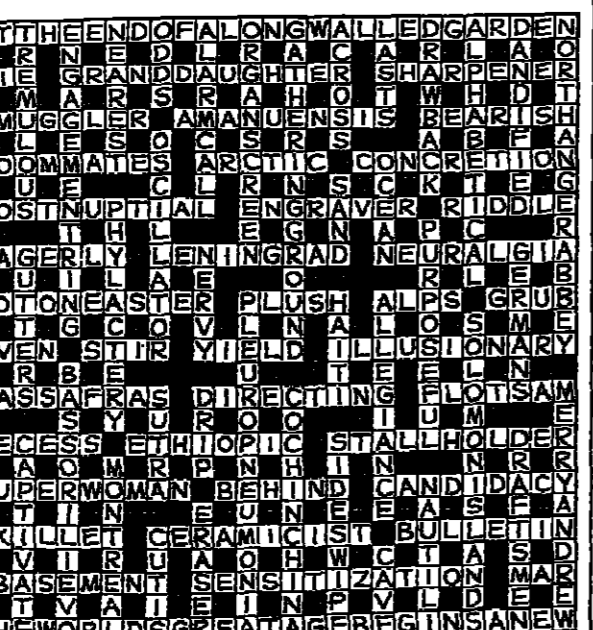
All his newspapers have improved, though to hear some in Jerusalem, Sydney and Melbourne, you would not credit it. When he joined the big league as the *Telegraph*, he understood that quality and character can go hand in hand with cost-cutting — can, in fact, be enhanced by it. That lesson has been spread elsewhere.

Insecurity was a useful tool in the education of the nephritic press lord. "Whenever he met anybody that he looked up to or that he was impressed by, he always wanted to know what they thought of him." Conrad's role to some extent is to ingratiate himself in certain circles — from which new leads, partners or influence might be found. His galactic board meetings, as William Buckley says, "a little bit dizzy", loaded up, adds Black, "with important people who can be helpful".

"Sometimes inclined to give the benefit of the doubt to apparently very rich men", Black is, in sum, refreshingly politically incorrect. A joke himself, "he's always laughing, either with or at people". This may surprise many who have been intimidated by his heavy load, wearied by lengthy history lessons, or have sat through his "extremely ornate and boring" public speeches. Black has a lot yet to prove, but this skilful and friendly book may help to give him the self-confidence to prove it.

Andrew Knight was chief executive of *The Daily Telegraph* from 1988 to 1994 and executive chairman of News International.

NEW YEAR JUMBO SOLUTION



The winner of the New Year Jumbo Crossword, published on December 30, is Geoffrey Beale, of Burgess Hill, W. Sussex, who will receive £100 and a Methuselah of Moët & Chandon champagne. The five runners-up, who will each receive £100, are: Glyn Jones of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire; Sue Blakely of Wootton, Surrey; Gordon Lee of Newcastle upon Tyne; Ian Smart of Ledminster, Hereford & Worcester; and Irene Winslow of Doncaster, S. Yorkshire.

Maybe it's because he's a Londoner

THE FIRST few pages of James Hawes's much-hyped new novel test the reader's endurance to the limit. It is all so aggressive and hip and generally in-your-face, get ready for wall-to-wall F-words and overgrown boys with plastic guns who want to be Quentin Tarantino. It is also one of those designed-to-frustrate jump starts which plunge you into a conversation you have no grasp of and no hope of understanding until you have read the whole book and then go back to the beginning again.

However, if you hold fast and break through to chapter two, Hawes gets into his stride and starts pulling you into his male protagonist's wry, downbeat take on what you do when life somehow does not deliver what college and middle-class aspirations led you to expect. Suddenly, he says, "the

A WHITE MERC WITH FINS
By James Hawes
Jonathan Cape, £12.99

brief yooof-socialist near-equality of college is gone" and you are out there on the dole with no prospects, while former soulmates head off to Mum-mey's spare flat in South Ken. You are left with a future in which an underfunded lower-middle-class background means that "you can never quite look at Life's Great Menu without your eyes drifting towards the Special Offer Set Dinner". It is a short walk from here to the hinterland of drugs and small-time criminal acquaintances, as the hero and his girlfriend/sidekick have already discovered, so they decide to make a do-or-die break for it by robbing a private bank.



Hawes: combative dialogue

class awareness, inhabiting classic chip-on-shoulder territory. Yet Hawes pumps so much up-front humour into his characters that they win you over, despite all their infuriating political posturing in this world where being HIV positive gives you extra points for cool. From the brain-dead

Reservoir Dogs groupie who walks around in a Harvey Keitel suit to the 50-year-old doorman who does on his grandchildren but can still dismember several opponents before breakfast, the cast is loud and rude and inexplicably endearing. The prose is made to match — fast-paced, combative dialogue alternating with the narrator's sub-Catcher in the Rye philosophising, entirely in slang, very London.

The plan for the heist is not bad at all and makes good watching as it gathers speed. The book's references are so specifically located that none of it will mean anything in about 18 months' time, but by then we shall all have seen the film version and Hawes will be busy spending the proceeds.

When is a shop not a shop?

Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money

HARRIET PATERSON

NEW ON CD: Mercury's jazz gems; overripe cheese; evocative guitar concertos; English opera voices from the 1940s

JAZZ

Clive Davis

CLAIRE MARTIN

Offbeat
Linn AKD-046**
THE outstanding British jazz singer of the 1990s, Claire Martin is another artist who spurns extravagance, in the process reducing each song to its essence. Recorded live at Ronnie Scott's, *Offbeat* showcases her unorthodox taste in modern lyrics — Laura Nyro.



Martin: no extravagance

Morgenstern's selection throws together a pot-pourri of traditions, hopping from Dinah Washington backed by Clark Terry and Paul Gonsalves on *I Cried for You* to Muggsy Spanier playing *Feather Brain*, from Roland Kirk's supercharged *3-in-1 Without the Oil* to Eddie South's defiantly old-world violin on *I Hadn't Anyone till You*.

Intentionally or not, the juxtapositions occasionally seem downright mischievous. Buddy DeFranco's clarinet busily disposes of *Scapple from the Apple*, yet Pee Wee Russell's contribution on *Sugar*, performed by George Wein's Newport All Stars, shows what can be done with the minimum of artifice.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

VARIOUS ARTISTS

The Look of Love — The Classic Songs of Burt Bacharach
Polygram TV 535 190**

SO, the word on the street is that easy-listening is hip and cheesy is chic. In a bizarre turn of events, the melodically impoverished children of the techno generation have taken a shine to the music of their grandparents. Forget Moby and the Chemical Brothers; Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and Matt Monro are the "new" names to drop.

Call me old-fashioned, but it was in order to avoid precisely these people that I started listening to pop music in the first place. Now comes *The Look of Love*, a compilation of songs written by two of the biggest cheeses of them all, Burt Bacharach and Hal David (although David's contribution seems to have been quietly airbrushed out of the new Bacharach mythology). And just because I can hum virtually every tune on the album does not mean I wish to hear any of them again now.

Still, here on one handy disc are the songs that have driven lift engineers and supermarker staff to distraction for 30 years or more: *The Look of Love*, *Do You Know the Way to San Jose*, *Raindrops Keep*

VARIOUS ARTISTS

The Mercury Records Jazz Story
Verve 52688-2 (2 CDs)***

HOW many people, if asked to name the leading jazz labels of the past half century, would put Mercury near the top of their list? Not many, I suspect. Compared with the sharply defined hard-bop ethos of Blue Note's 1950s output, for example, Mercury and its various offshoots appeared happy to pursue half a dozen different music policies at any given time.

If that was not so good for the all-important corporate image, it makes for a provocative, multicoloured anthology — not to mention an indispensable jazz primer. Through most of the material is drawn from the 1950s and 1960s, Dan

NEW ON VIDEO: Gorillas to be missed; nature under a surrealist's microscope; royal suicide made painless

CONGO

CIC, 12, 1995
VIEWERS starved of fantasy escapism may find relief in the diamond hunters, gorillas and volcanoes thrown together in this surprisingly low-grade hokum from director Frank Marshall, adapted from Michael Crichton's book. Sometimes the film tries to be cute, sometimes it aims to scare. The script is usually not up to either task, but the unstarty cast plough ahead regardless. Principal curiosities include Amy, the talking gorilla, and Tim Curry's amusing turn as a shady entrepreneur from Romania. Available to rent.

KISS OF DEATH

FoxVideo, 18, 1995
DAVID CARUSO found his first film role outside *NYPD Blue* as the vulnerable former convict trying to go straight in this partial remake of the famous 1947 thriller. But he becomes wallpaper whenever Nicolas Cage barges in as Little Junior, a nasty gangster bulging with muscles: a performance with all the realism of a circus clown. Barbet Schroeder's film boasts a script by the esteemed Richard Price, but any sympathy for the Caruso character's plight is increasingly trampled by gaudy artifice. A rental release.

HALLOWE'EN

MIA, 18, 1978
THE FILM that spawned a thousand bad imitations returns to video in a digitally remastered, wide-screen edition that includes the original trailer. A small Illinois town is the setting; the time, of course, is Halloween, when babysitters and their friends, led by Jamie Lee Curtis, face the attentions of a maniac who likes to celebrate by slicing people with a butcher's knife. Director John Carpenter does his best to frighten the life out of us, though he does not forget humour: there are plenty of in-jokes for movie buffs.

SURREALISM AND SCIENCE

Academy, E
A COMPILATION of the remarkable, beautiful and often unnerving films of Jean Painlevé, the French documentary maker whose short



Too much monkey business: Dylan Walsh shares his reading with Amy, the talking gorilla, in Frank Marshall's low-grade hokum, *Congo*

MAYERLING

Lumiere, PG, 1999
CINEMA's third rendition of Crown Prince Rudolf's misalliance with a commoner is not so much a slice of history, more a slice of cake: the film is top-heavy with imperial bric-à-brac, ornate scenery and tearful music from Francis Lai. Omar Sharif and Catherine Deneuve, as the star-crossed lovers, look very pretty but drown among the trap-

TALES OF ORDINARY MADNESS

Art House, 18, 1991
THE TALES, derived from Charles Bukowski's writings, are spun by a sodden American poet staggering

TALES OF ORDINARY MADNESS

through life with a bottle in his hand, self-pity on his lips and lust in his head. Bert Gazzara shows little flair in the role, while Italian director Marco Ferreri, once a byword for purposeful anarchy, merely offers the inert presentation of unending shocks. Woe beride us if he ever tackles extraordinary madness.

GEOFF BROWN

Fallin' on My Head, Trains and Boats and Planes, Alfie, I'll Never Fall in Love Again, You'll Never Get to Heaven (If You Break My Heart) and many more.

Although these are the original recordings by the stars that made them his in the first place — Dusty Springfield, Dionne Warwick, B. J. Thom-

as, Billy J. Kramer, Cilla Black, Bobby Gentry, the Stylistics and all the rest — the assaults which these songs have suffered nightly in cocktail lounges and karaoke bars the world over have taken their toll.

And to think, we fought through two Woodstocks for this.

commissioned more concertos for the guitar than anybody else, and three of them — all by American composers — are here in premiere recordings. All three make imaginative use of the intimate nature of these are essentially pieces of evocation and fantasy rather than vehicles for display.

John Corigliano, best known for his opera *The Ghosts of Versailles*, takes the opportunity to retreat from the spotlight, looking back across the centuries for his inspiration to the courtly low

rudition of the medieval troubadours. His *Troubadours*, subtitled *Variations for Guitar and Orchestra*, conjures the sonorities of that world, subtly dissolving them into a nostalgic haze.

Joseph Schwantner's *From Afar* has more drama, but also a strong feeling for colour and atmosphere, superbly caught by Isbin and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra under Hugh Wolff.

Lukas Foss's *American Landscapes for Guitar and Orchestra* is different again. Drawing on the folksy American tradition to which the guitar is central, Foss intercuts pastoral sequences with snatches of jigs and reels. Nifty fingerwork and improvisatory skills are called for in the spirited finale, which whirls to an anarchically lutesian conclusion amid strains of *America the Beautiful*.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

BEETHOVEN
String Quartets Op 18 No 3 & Op 130
Emerson String Quartet
DG 49 505-2***

HARD on the heels of the Lindseys' cycle at the Wigmore Hall, the Emerson Quartet has just arrived at the Queen Elizabeth Hall for a ten-day session of the complete Beethoven string quartets. Meanwhile, this disc provides a sampler of its style.

The Emersons now play with an authority and polish which mark them out as *amateurs des amateurs* of their profession. Where the Lindseys take risks, the Emersons view the music from above, their part-writing finely honed, chording mahogany-grained and each note trimly tucked into place in the Presto finale of the Op 18 No 3.

Their performance of the Op 130, with the *Grosse Fuge*, is magisterial. The contrasts of its opening are carved out fearlessly, while the players maintain a clear, strong view of the work's grand design. The Presto is secretive; the Cavatina tremulous with a real sense of music heard in the innermost being of the composer; and the great fugue fully captures the mystery and awe of its making.



Kremer: soul-cleansing

student work of the 16-year-old Mahler is given a properly impassioned performance. Then comes an early work by Schoenberg. Kremer and Oleg Maisenberg make this tiny, recently discovered early piece in D minor for violin and piano a real spring song.

The 15-year-old Webern wrote two pieces for cello and piano, which Maisenberg and Clemens Hagen reveal as dreamlike glimpses of the extreme distillations to come. Here are the tiny, prismatic Four Pieces for Violin and Piano of 1910, and the even tinier bright splinters of the Three Little Pieces for Cello and Piano of 1914. And in between these glowing performances comes Berg's Four Pieces for Clarinet and Piano, in which Sabine Meyer luxuriates in the composer's miniature expressionist art.

The programme ends with Berg's pungent arrangement for clarinet, violin and piano of the Adagio from the Chamber Concerto, and with Schoenberg's last instrumental work, the String Trio of 1946 and the Phantasie for Violin and Piano of 1949, each pushed to its expressive limits.

OPERA

John Higgins

STARS OF ENGLISH OPERA
*Dutton CDLY 7018***
A TRIBUTE TO DENNIS NOBLE
Various orchestras
*Dutton CDLY 7017***

A MORE appropriate title might have been *Stars of Opera in English*. There is precious little English opera in

these recordings, taken mainly from the 1940s and remastered to a very high standard by the small firm of Dutton. But the artists all sing in their native language and with what clarity. Scarcely a syllable is missing among these voices carrying a cut-glass accent or two.

John Hargreaves damning the couriers in *Rigoletto* sounds like Noel Coward bucking up the chaps in *In Which We Serve* and Gladys Ripley cursing Eboli's fatal beauty in *Don Carlos* has all the irritation of a hostess whose cucumber sandwiches are not quite right. But there are treasures elsewhere, especially among the tenors. Heddie Nash is present, showing exquisite and sustained mezza voce in Nadir's aria from *The Pearl Fishers*. David Lloyd, a colleague at prewar Glyndebourne, less well known but with a weightier voice, comes across as an expert Mozartian. And there is James Johnston, several years before Covent Garden cast him opposite Callas, robust and easy in *The Bartered Bride*.

The Commonwealth singers include Joan Hammond in a very early recording of *O my beloved father*, the Puccini that was to become her calling card — a bit rough and she was later to do much better under Walter Legge. Oscar Naxos, from New Zealand, relishes Falstaff's drinking song from *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Karl Rankl and the Covent Garden Orchestra back him in a way that suggests some of the flak that the German conductor had to endure when he was trying to re-establish the Royal Opera after the war might have been misdirected.

Dennis Noble, possibly London's most famous Rossini Figaro in the 1930s and 1940s,

gets a CD to himself. He gallops through *I'm the factotum* in fewer than four minutes in a record made at the start of his career in 1929. When he came back to it ten years later he took another 30 seconds, a track included in the *Stars* issue. With Webster Booth as Almaviva, Noble shows real style in the Act I duet as aristo and barber work out how to get at Rosina.

Noble's repertoire was considerable and he ranged easily from Mozart's Figaro telling Cherubino what to expect ('Here's an end to your romps



Nash: exquisite mezza voce

in the hay, lad/Here's an end to the life that is gay, lad') to Verdi's lingo.

It is a pity that the selection contains no Puccini, but it does have a delectably sentimental Sterndale Bennett number of a late-night carouser returning home to a faithful hound: "A rough-haired pup/Will be sitting up/To say good night to you". Gerald Moore, the accompanist, was doubtless wagging his tail at the piano.

How about a James Johnston issue next?

* Worth hearing
** Worth considering
*** Worth buying

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POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

DUFFY

Needle Mythology
*Indolent DUFF 004***
SEVENTEEN years after he dropped out of Duran Duran and 11 years since his only hits (*Kiss Me and Icing on the Cake*), time is not on Stephen Duffy's side. Timing is not his strong point either, and although his self-titled album, released last August, bore all the hallmarks of classic British pop, trying to smuggle him into the charts under the Britpop banner never looked like a serious play.

But you cannot blame him for trying, and his new single, *Needle Mythology*, is a crisp tune that falls somewhere between the orthodox song-



Duffy: well-intentioned

writing style of Squeeze and the more up-to-date sound of, say, the Lightning Seeds.

Its anti-heroin lyric is well-intentioned if rather literal — "Why make your drug of choice your goodbye to the world?" — but Duffy sings it with just the right degree of world-weary detachment, while guitars and an electric piano twinkle brightly.

It is a deft, understated piece, and again Duffy has captured a mood that is more timeless than timely.

20TH CENTURY

Barry Millington

CORIGLIANO/SCHWANTNER/FOSS
American Landscapes: Guitar Concertos
Isbin/Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra/Wolff
Virgin VC 5 55083 2***

FEW guitarists have done more to expand the repertoire for their instrument than the brilliant virtuoso Sharon Isbin. Certainly Isbin has

When is a shop not a shop?

Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money

صكزامن الاصل

PROPERTY

With two of Britain's great landmarks for sale, Cheryl Taylor finds other beauty spots to buy

Waterfalls, caverns and coves

You may be surprised to learn that many of Britain's landmarks and beauty spots are privately owned. The two best known, Land's End and John o' Groat's, went on sale jointly this month for £5.5 million.

Land's End attracts about 500,000 visitors a year. John o' Groat's 250,000. Both have established tourist and leisure businesses, employing a total of 200 people, with a joint turnover of about £3.5 million.

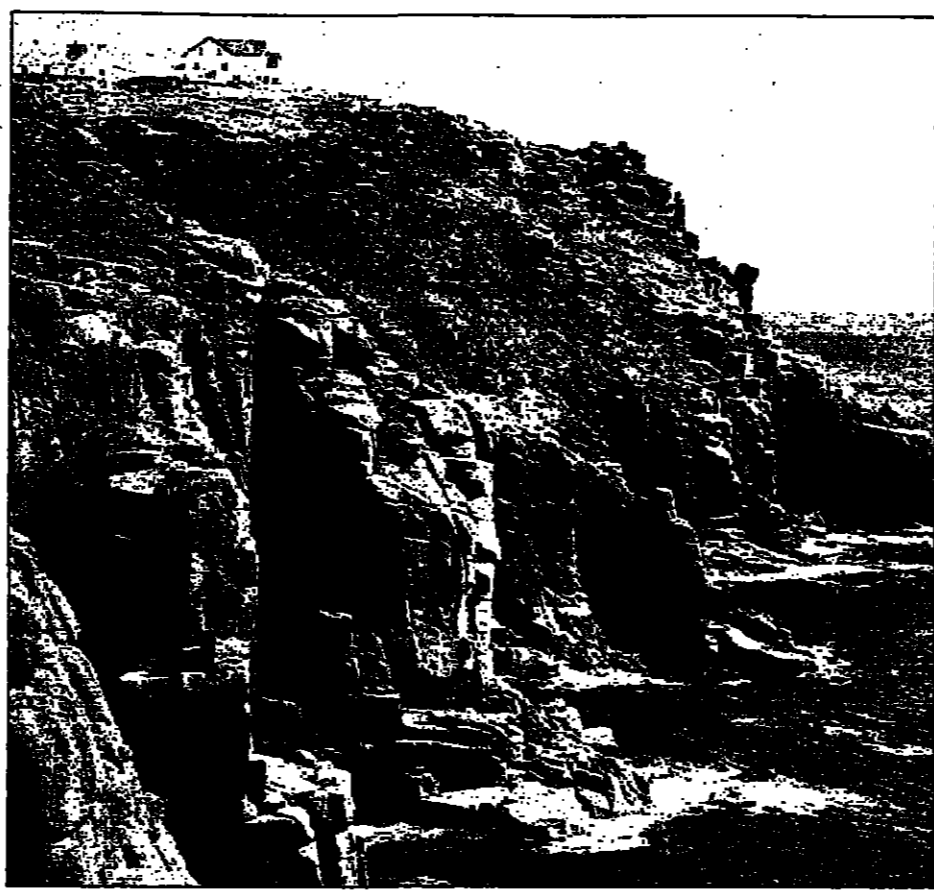
Land's End, comprising 100 acres of pastureland and cliffs, visitors' centre, car parks, hotel complex and holiday cottages, has changed hands three times in 15 years. David Golstone, a property developer, bought it from the Neave-Hill family in 1981, selling it five years later to the property tycoon Peter de Savary, who pumped in another £5 million. A New Zealand company, Gulf Resources Pacific, which also acquired John o' Groat's, bought Land's End in 1992 and has since spent £1 million upgrading facilities.

The 20-acre John o' Groat's site, with its 15-bed hotel, bar

and shop, has planning permission to expand the hotel and develop visitor attractions, for which a grant may be available from the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Company.

Estate agent Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby, of Humber's Leisure, reports worldwide interest for the two landmarks. The National Trust, however, is not in the market, despite its attempt to buy Land's End in 1981, when it was outbid. The two properties are not considered by the trust to be under threat or in urgent need of care and attention and, therefore, do not warrant trust funds.

If you fancy owning a landmark, there are smaller, and cheaper, pieces of Britain on the market. British Coal is selling part of Offa's Dyke in the disposal of more than 1,000 acres of agricultural land and property in northeast Wales. The 120-metre section of the historic earthworks at Rhostyllen, near Wrexham, part of 80 surviving miles of ditch and embankment, was built by the King of Mercia 1,200 years ago to mark his



Land's End (above) and John o' Groat's are up for sale jointly at £5.5 million

frontier. The agents, Carter Jonas, expect this Ancient Monument, with 96 acres of arable land let on five farm business tenancies, to fetch about £150,000.

In Devon, there are two beauty spots for sale within the Dartmoor National Park, which attracts about 10 million visitors a year to its 368 square miles of moor and grassland.

Becky Falls, at Manaton near Bovey Tracey, with waterfall, bridges and woodland paths in 45 acres, is for sale at £1.4m through Jackson-Stops & Staff. The estate, which

includes a restaurant, ice-cream parlour, tea garden, gift shop, car park, owner's house and outbuildings, attracts 200,000 visitors a year and has planning consent for a Study and Interpretation Centre.

Or, you could buy Badger's Holt, an 11th-century former fishing lodge to the Manor of Spitchwick, in 5.5 acres of woodland gardens, on the banks of the East Dart river at Dartmeet, which attracts around 250,000 visitors a year.

The property includes a licensed restaurant and bar, gift shop, ice-cream kiosk, parking for 200 cars, four-bedroom owner's accommodation, gardens with aviary, stable block and fishing rights.

Within the National Park, Badger's Holt has commoners' grazing rights for two mares and their foals. The agent Knight Frank is looking for offers of about £750,000. There is no management agreement with the Dartmoor National Parks authority at Becky Falls or Badger's Holt, which means public access to the properties is at the owner's discretion. Similarly, visitors to Land's End pay up to £5 a head in high season.

Also in Devon, Knight Frank is asking £1.5 million for The Fisherman's Cot, a 23-bedroom hotel, restaurant and bar on the banks of the River Exe, next to the 14th-century Bickleigh Bridge, four miles from Tiverton. It gets about 51,000 visitors a year and has been a favourite haunt of authors and songwriters over the years - it is said that Paul Simon wrote *Bridge Over Troubled Water* there. The property comes with parking for 90 cars, 27 acres of landscaped gardens, a licensed riverside terrace, stable block and a quarter of a mile of double-bank salmon and sea trout fishing rights.

Alternatively, Carrglaze Caverns, at St Neot, near Liskeard, part of Cornwall's tin mining heritage in a secluded valley bordering the River Laveny, can be yours for £350,000 through Knight Frank. Quarrying ceased about 1903, but the public were not admitted until 1973 to view the magnificent caverns, which now attract 7,000 visitors a year.

The price includes a two-bedroom cottage, shop, car parking, 6.5 acres of sloping woodland gardens and extensive underground caverns, with former quarry workings, featuring a subterranean pool.

Also in Cornwall, the agents Miller & Sons is looking for offers of about £50,000 for the Iron Age Trethylls courtyard village in 3.5 acres adjoining Chun Castle and surrounded by National Trust land near Newbridge. A scheduled Ancient Monument, it comprises the remains of five courtyard houses, a number of round houses and a 2,000-year-old burial chamber. As yet, the site is not on the tourist track.

London 4, Burnaby Street, Chelsea, SW10. Period terraced house with garden. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room and utility room. About £289,000 (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1484).

FOR SALE

ABOUT £250,000

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Garden Cottage, Sibury. Grade II listed house, with garden, in a conservation area of the Cotswolds. Three bedrooms, bathroom, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, store room, shower room. Garage. About £235,000 (Knight Frank, 01285 859771).

KENT
Uphoulsen, Westmarsh, near Canterbury. Grade II listed medieval hall house in an acre of gardens. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), drawing room, dining room, study, kitchen, utility and cellar. Cottage for refurbishment and garage. About £280,000 (Strut & Parker, 01227 451123).

LONDON
4, Burnaby Street, Chelsea, SW10. Period terraced house with garden. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room and utility room. About £289,000 (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1484).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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Scotland's company of wolves

Wild animals including lynx and beaver may be reintroduced to the Highlands

In the depths of what remains of the Caledonian pine forest it is not hard to conjure up might-have-beens and once-upon-a-times. If it is wilderness you crave, the sense of it is there at least.

If you yearn for the cry of the wolf on the wind, or the slap of a beaver tail on the still surface of a hidden lochan, there are trees there that know what you are talking about. They are mighty survivors. The spread of your arms won't go halfway round their girth, and they can reach back to the Ice Age in 30 generations. They are nature's historic monuments.

One such tree is screened by a small stockade of birches, junipers and lesser pines, which conspire to shield its immensity. But step into the arena that the tree has cleared for itself within the stockade and marvel at its showpiece qualities: the classical flat-topped Scots pine, the Gothic spread of limes.

It is, perhaps, 70ft high, 20ft round the base. One root is 2ft thick, its bark is 4in deep in places. If the golden eagle is the king of birds, here is a golden eagle among pines. Such a tree remembers the pad of wolves.

Sadly there are few such trees, but there are no wolves at all. The great forests, the wolf's domain, were felled. For centuries, for as long as man had ceased to be a hunter-gatherer and settled for the life of herdsman, he first feared, then became obsessed by the wolf. Not only did he account for its extinction in the mid-18th century, he obliterated many other species and countless square miles of pristine forest.

The pine forest remnants we know are empty places and amount to 1 per cent of the forest that was. But the tide is turning. Conservation has begun to think big, to contemplate restoration on a scale which almost matches people's old capacity for destruction.

The case for restoring and recreating big forests of native trees has moved from the fringes of the conservation movement to the centre. The old order of deer forest and sheep farm are being questioned, and, emboldened by the reintroduction of sea eagle, goshawk and red kite, a new *crê de coeur* is on conservationists' lips: "Bring back the big



The wolf was extinct in Scotland by the middle of the 18th century. Whether they can be reintroduced will depend on the extent to which the great, ancient forests can be recreated

mammals." The campaign has been assisted greatly by the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), which has responded to a European Union directive on species reintroduction by announcing that we could have beavers back in two years. If this comes off, it will establish a formidable precedent, because in the Highlands beaver has been extinct for 400 years.

Nobody denies that as mammal reintroductions go, beaver is the softest option. It is a harmless rodent with nothing more ominous in its nature than a talent for civil engineering and a predilection for willow bark. But if you scan the roll call of extinct species and contemplate the head of steam building behind mammal reintroductions, the concern in the National Farmers' Union and the Scottish Landowners' Federation is understandable.

Neolithic man killed off the lynx. The brown bear was hunted out by the 16th century, reinder by the 18th, elk by the 13th. The beaver's fur was the price on its head, and it was extinct by the 16th century. The wild boar was the best contest for the hunter, and by the 17th century there were no survivors. That left only the wolf to worry about, and the centuries-long campaign of



Lynx and wild boar still prowls the European mainland, and are the more likely species to be reintroduced to Britain

vilification and lies could only ever have one consequence.

There is no reliable evidence of a healthy wolf having killed a human being, let alone swallowing grandmothers whole. When wolves have killed, they are known to have been rabid or under extreme provocation, such as their cubs being threatened.

In fact, the earliest peoples of these Caledonian pine forests, especially the Picts, revered the wolf as the supreme

hunter, and carved it as a sacred symbol on their stones.

But the reintroduction of the wolf is probably some way off yet. All the lost species have their champions, and the wolf is the apothosis on everyone's list, but common to most of them are the more achievable targets of beaver, lynx and wild boar, and all four still prowls the European mainland.

How many species we manage to reintroduce and how soon we might achieve this depends on the scale of forest we recreate or, as Ron Greer, director of Environment Resources Scotland, puts it: "Not before we have the physical and psychological environment sorted out."

Mr Greer, one of the most persuasive voices at the cutting edge of Scottish conservation, says: "We have to build the whole biological basis for the animals to live in, and, more importantly, work out how the animals and people are going to live together." He argues that we must learn again what we have forgotten, the skills of co-existence, and cites North America and Norway as examples.

There the attitude is different, Mr Greer says. "People accept big, dramatic animals, such as moose, elk, bears and wolves. In a place such as Maine, which is the size of Scotland, people are quite happy to have thirty or forty thousand moose walking

about, and 20,000 black bears."

So the first step is what? "Changing the land use so that we get the primary forest back," Mr Greer says.

What sort of area of primary forest? "Even if we had between a third and a half of Scotland covered, that would probably be enough."

Will it happen? "I'm optimistic because we've run out of alternatives. It's only a matter of time before the sheep subsidy system goes down the tubes and then we'll be faced with major social breakdown. It has to happen, so it will."

So how long? "Fifty years, maybe more. Once we have the environment changed and people's minds up to speed, they might accept wolves. They're not as dangerous as... oh, a high-cholesterol breakfast is more dangerous than the wolf."

You can see captive wolves, lynx and wild boar in Scotland, and in the course of making two radio programmes recently, I eyeballed them all; I saw a lynx (a cat big enough to fell a roe deer) leap 8ft to take a swipe at a passing magpie; I saw a 400lb waist-high boar devour a newly killed pigeon whole; and I looked longingly into the yellow eyes of a dominant old alpha male wolf patrolling a plantation of Scots pines. In my mind as I looked at him was the account by an American writer, Barry Lopez, of an incident in wolf education at a US school.

"That day the children were very excited. A wolf was coming to visit the school. Before it arrived, their teacher asked them to paint a picture of a wolf. They all drew fierce animals with very big fangs. Later the wolf came. Afterwards their teacher asked them to draw another picture. This time there were no fangs. All the pictures showed wolves with very big feet."

JIM CRUMLEY

● The writer is the author of 12 books on Scottish landscape and wildlife, including *Badgers on the Highland Edge* (Cape, £14.99), *Among Mountains and Among Islands* (Mainstream, £14.99) and *The Heart of Skye* (Colin Baxter, £8.95).

Feather Report Playing hide and seek

THE LEA VALLEY bitterns are back. Near Cheshunt, 14 miles north of London, there is a reed-bed where they are now regular winter visitors — four of them, this year. And these are bitterns that come with all mod cons — for the birdwatcher, that is, because the reed-bed is in front of a large, wooden hide with seats and viewing slots.

I went for my annual view last week. I don't really like hides, but this is too good a chance to miss — and I was lucky. I had not been in the hide two minutes before a wave of excitement and whisperings of "Where? where?" ran through the watchers. In the reeds it was just possible to make out the shape of a bittern, crouching with its beak pointing at a 60-degree angle to the sky. Most of its plumage blended so perfectly with the reeds that if you took your eyes off it you could lose it. Some people couldn't see it at all.

Then it moved, stepping slowly forward into a narrow, open channel between the reeds, and everybody had a wonderful view. You could see the long yellow streaks with jagged edges on its body, and the dark blue crown. It stalked a few yards through



Regular visits: the bittern

the water, turned back into the reeds and vanished.

Meanwhile, a kingfisher flashed by, hovered, and settled on a pole, its topknot ruffled, its blue back shining. Like the rainbow and the cuckoo's song in W. H. Davies's poem, we had two amazing fisher birds presented to our senses in one rare moment.

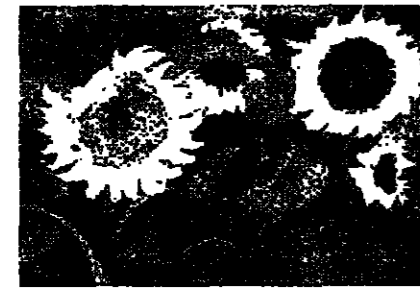
The hide is currently open every day. For details phone 01992 715838.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about: *Birders* — Listen for the repetitive tea-cher call of the great tit *Twitchee* — a male, black-throated thrush at *Weathath, Hereford* & Worcester; a hoopoe at *Everley, Hampshire*; a king eider at *Tipton, Fife*. Details from *Birding 0891 702222*. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate. 50p at all other times.

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Admission £4.00 full price, £2.00 concessions, children free, admission free for everyone on Tuesdays.
Passport holders are entitled to a free copy of the exhibition poster
Whitechapel High Street, London E1
Tel 0171 522 7878
Exhibition runs until February 25
Tue-Sun 11am-5pm (Wed till 8pm)

BRADFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE
"Survival Island" at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television
Celebrating 100 years of British cinema in 1996 with major exhibitions, events and festivals, the museum houses Britain's largest cinema experience, "IMAX". David Attenborough's debut on the "IMAX" screen offers a chance to explore the natural history of South Georgia.

Admission £2.90 adults, £2.70 concessions and children
Passport holders are entitled to two for one adult admission
Pictureville, Bradford Tel 01274 727488
Screenings Tues-Sun 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm, closed Mon (advanced booking advised) showing until May 1996

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Bretton Hall, West Bretton Tel 01924 830302
Exhibition runs until March 10
Daily 10am-4pm

BRISTOL
"Crafts in Avon and the British International Miniature Print Exhibition" at the City Museum and Art Gallery
Two exhibitions in one - a wealth of objects and images to enjoy. The first British International Miniature Print Exhibition was launched in 1989. This second exhibition promises to be just as popular. The works themselves are tiny, but together they convey great richness and diversity.

Admission charge to the museum £2.00 adults, £1.00 concessions, children/students free
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THE TIMES

SAILING: Edward Gorman on the trials and triumphs of a DIY refit

Refitting or overhauling an old cruising boat can be a nightmare. Anyone who has ever tried it is adamant they will never do it again. Some people start and never finish. Others start, but go broke before they finish. Yet more finish but are so traumatised by the experience, they sell their once beloved boat as soon as they can.

Boats being worked on are horrible to be around. Cramped at the best of times, they become chaotic once you start to dismantle and renovate them. The space you are trying to improve is at the top of an eight-foot ladder and quickly becomes your workshop. Tools, bits of wood, dust, shavings, glue, interior and exterior fittings pile up, making even the simplest job a huge challenge.

There is also the annoyingly expensive knock-on effect of moving any fitting to a new location in a yacht. During the year-long refit of my own boat *Nutcracker* I used to compare it to those puzzles where moving one square involves moving all the others. You get the one you want in the right place — say the bilge pump — but all the others, the batteries, cooker, fuel tank and cabin heater, are now displaced and have to be relocated.

Nothing is ever plain sailing



The Tiplays on *Keeshond*

costs down by doing a lot of the work yourself.

Neil and Fiona Tiplady from Redhill in Surrey embarked on exactly that strategy just over a year ago when, after six months of hunting, they bought *Keeshond*, a Holman & Pye Super Sovereign 35 foot ketch, built in 1973. They had been looking for a sturdy and reliable cruising home on which to extend their sailing horizons after completing a number of Royal Yachting Association courses, and enjoying charter holidays abroad. Among other designs they looked at were two Rival 34s, a Contessa 35 which they thought too powerful for their requirements, a Nicholson 32, and two Ohlson 38s.

They began last January, intending to have it all finished for an inaugural sail by August. But with the work still going on this year, they are now aiming at a relaunch this April.

Fiona showed me around the unfinished interior last week. "I knew it would take us a long time to get it cosmetically how we wanted it, but I didn't realise how much work there would be," she said. Neil estimates that they will have spent more than £15,000 by the time they finish, despite doing most of the work themselves. They have also scoured the country for good deals on parts.

The experience of working on *Keeshond* has left Neil with at least three hard and fast rules. The first is that every job takes three times longer than you think it will. The second is that if you think something will fit easily and simply, assume the exact opposite. And the third: don't be surprised if you end up having a blazing row with your partner in the boat shed. It's not you or him or her, it's the boat.

The work on *Keeshond* began with six weekends spent dismantling the rig, the deck fittings (which had to be drilled off), the heads, galley and chart

table. The engine was removed, as were the old wiring, piping and tanks. Then Fiona and Neil set about scraping all the old sealer out of the deck seams, before resealing them after replacing many of the screws and dowels. Neil spent at least two weekends overhauling the engine, changing some of the sump gaskets, replacing the alternator and moving the heat exchanger from the front to the side.

Fiona meanwhile set about the marathon task of stripping back all the woodwork on deck and in the cockpit for revarnishing, and resealing the hatch covers and windows, all of which leaked. While this was under way, professionals in the yard renewed the hull's protective coatings, and Neil replaced all the seacocks.

The next phase, which is still under way, is the rebuilding of the galley to include a double the chart table; and the redesign of the heads to include a shower. Still to come is new wiring, the re-installation of the 50hp Perkins engine and a new generator, and seven new water and diesel tanks, custom-made to fit the now pristine bilges.

There have been moments when both of them have longed for it all to be over. But they have never lost momentum and know they will be glad of their absolute confidence that I know where everything is and why it is there," said Neil. "We wanted a boat that won't leak, and I wanted the confidence of knowing how everything is attached and knowing it will stay attached."

"The biggest worry is the engine, because it still hasn't been run. The other big worry is us — can we handle her?" He cast a wary eye over a windy Chichester harbour where *Keeshond* will soon make her first voyage as a virtually new boat.

Buckle up and prepare for a little bit of tightening

مركز الامن الاسلامي

SHOPPING

Buckle up and prepare for a little belt tightening

Animal-print belts and accessories add style to the sleek silhouettes in vogue this season

Skinny "fake snake" and "mock croc" belts are winding their way around the waists of women's fitted jackets and trouser suits, replacing the soft pastel shades of summer with a textured jungle effect. The more exotic belts add bite to last summer's soft Jackie Kennedy look without taking away its sophistication.

Pale blue and pink patent belts have been replaced with brown and black, which work well with camel, a favourite shade this season.

"Women want to look groomed again," says Carol Richardson, fashion spokeswoman at Marks & Spencer. "It is a very lady-like silhouette this winter, like the Duchess of Windsor or Audrey Hepburn. It is a lot more polished than in the past few years."

The thin, fake snake leather belts at Marks & Spencer have a cream-and-brown print with covered buckles and cost about £8 (sizes 8 to 14). They are among the cheaper belts in high street stores.

Mulberry's belts are made from calf skin, which makes them more expensive at £35-£99. They come in lizard and crocodile print, black or brown, with a textured effect called Nile, Congo or Tangier. Its new funkier ranges, Cleopatra Asp and Luxor Viper, have an "antique" snake-print effect and a high-gloss finish.

Stores such as Loewe, Coach and Hermès, renowned for their leather products, stock belts at the top end of the price range. At Hermès, depending on the type of leather or skin used, belts cost from approximately £200 to £1,000. They can be made to order in exotic skins, such as ostrich and crocodile. The company's range of colours includes bright yellow and green; and some of its belts can be reversed. The buckles are detachable for this purpose. The

ethnic influence is strong, and some of their silver buckles are based on designs by the Tuareg community of the Sahara.

At the other end of the market are trendy outlets such as Top Shop and Pink Soda. Plastic white-and-grey animal-print belts at Pink Soda cost £7.99. Cheaper belts are ideal to complement this season's look, but they are unlikely to withstand frequent wear.

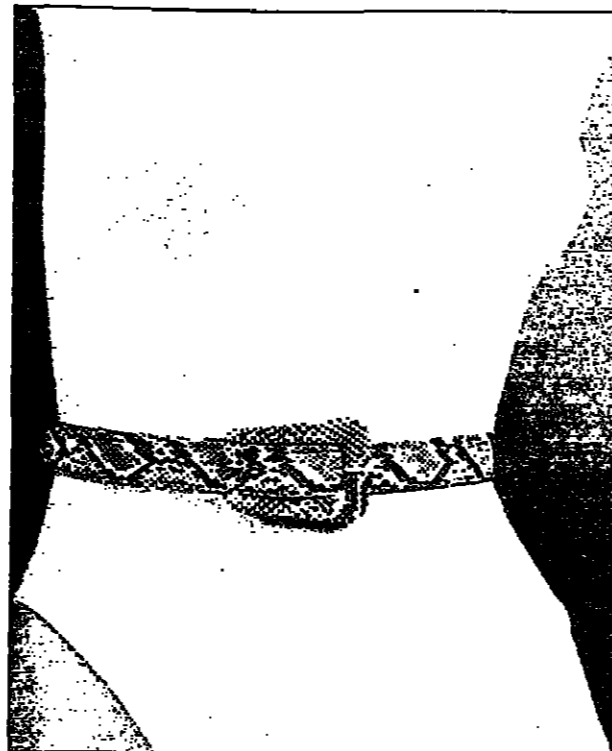
Good leather can be kept supple by applying noughier regularly, and by storing belt buckles in a pouch when not in use. But if you want a strong belt that will take you through the winter, think of your purchase as a long-term investment. The better the leather, the longer it will last; cheap belts will eventually crack and the stitching will loosen.

Of course, any belt, whatever its price, is worthless if it does not fit comfortably. A belt that fastens through its middle hole is considered a good fit; it also allows for movement either way.

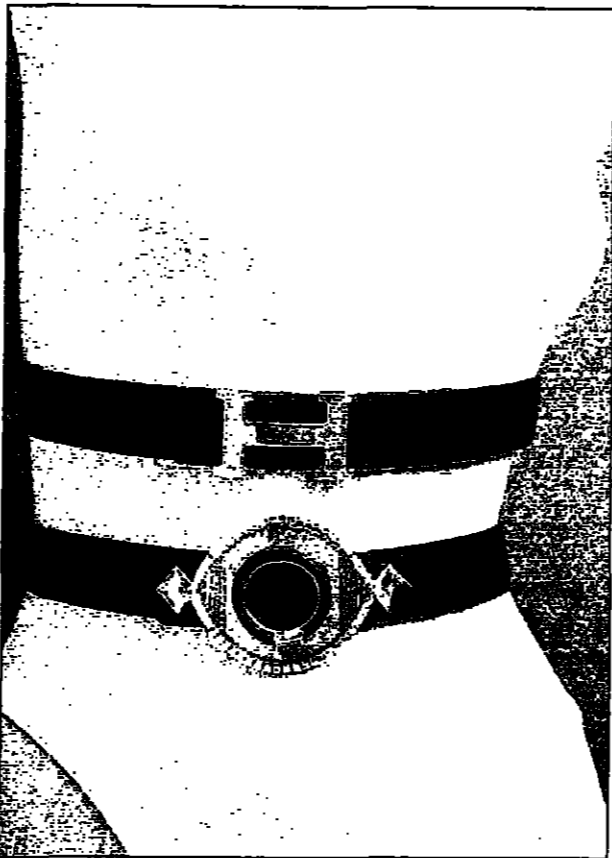
If you prefer your belts loose or low-slung, the latest range of chain belts by Chanel and Prada can either be worn tight around the waist or slung usually around the hips — but for a price. Alternatively, Otto Glanz's leather belt with a "snaffle" buckle will instantly revive a pair of trousers for a more modest £38.

As part of the "total look" this season, belts come with matching accessories: animal print, mock-croc, sarai is available at Marks & Spencer. There are also fine leather gloves and animal-print handbags to complete the set. Mulberry has taken the finishing touches a stage further with mini bags, and purses with a 1950s-style wrist trap.

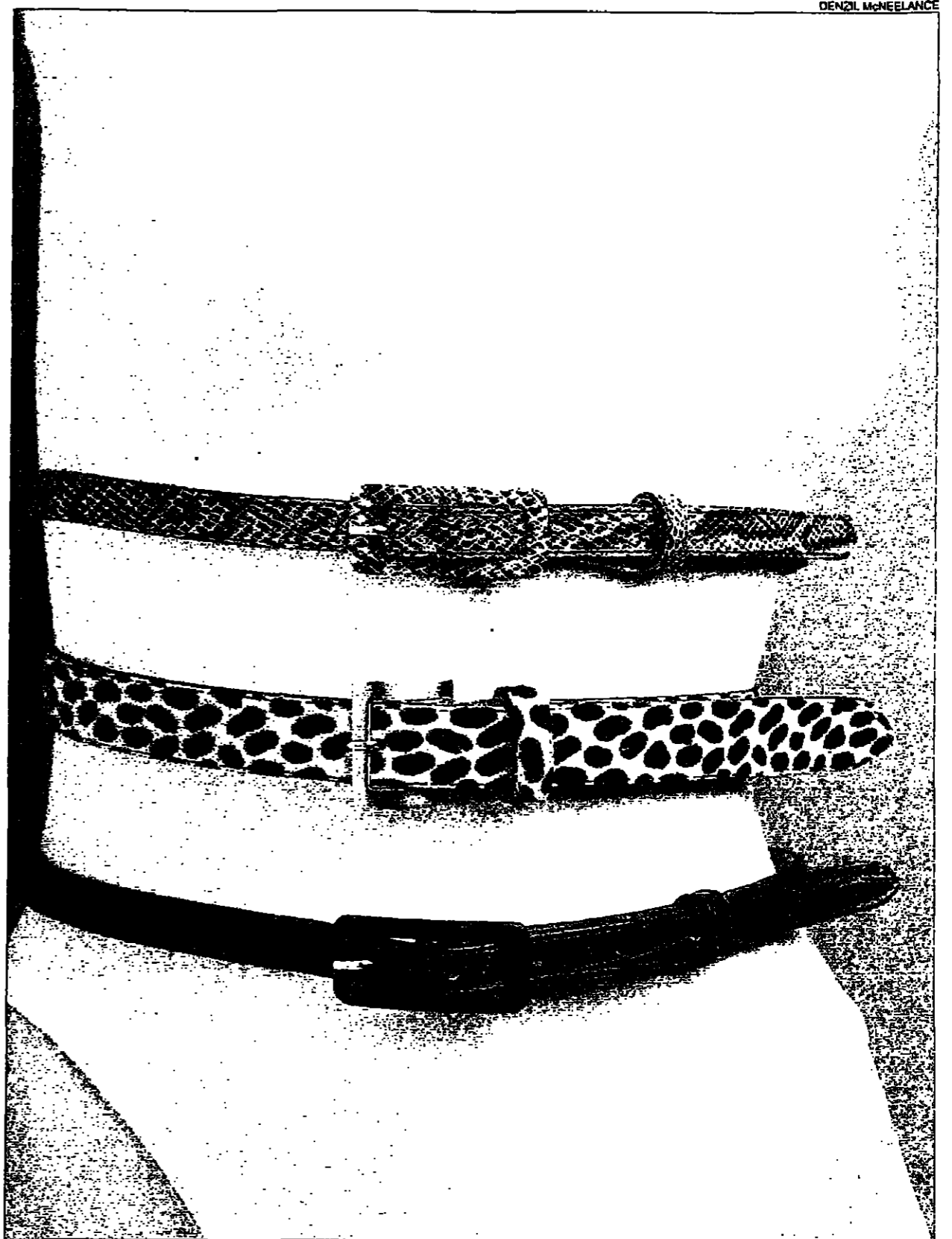
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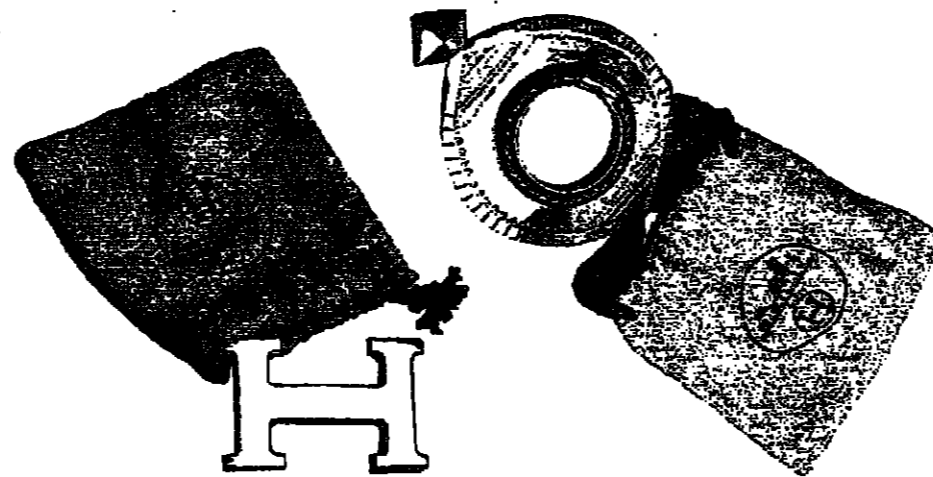
Plastic "fake-snake" belt from Pink Soda, £7.99



Top-of-the-range belts from Hermès — £195 (top) and £455



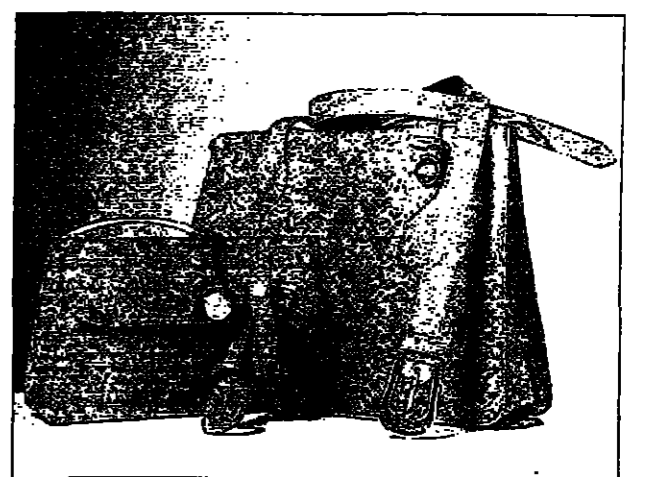
These jungle-effect belts from Marks & Spencer cost around £8. They are ideal for sprucing up old suits and jackets



Hermès provides traditional soft drawstring bags to protect its heavy buckles

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- Mulberry (0171-491 3600) 41-42 Bond St, London W1
- Pink Soda (0171-636 9001) 22 East Castle St, London W1
- Otto Glanz (0181-365 1711) 2 Norman Rd, London N15 4ND



Mulberry belt (left, £30), bag (£130); viper belt (£55), bag (£325)

Finding an efficient, environmentally friendly hairspray isn't easy. We tested a selection

WE KEEP being told to do our environmental bit by converting from aerosols to ozone-friendly, pump-action containers for products such as hairspray. But is the non-aerosol technology yet up to producing an efficient hairspray?

The frequent complaint with non-aerosol sprays is that the liquid is not dispersed as a fine mist over the hair, but as a sticky mess over the hands. I set out to discover whether any manufacturer had come up with a solution to the problem. I tested several pump-action sprays on my long, fine hair that has a tendency to go limp.

MICHAEL DI CESARE
Super Hold Preserving Spray
250ml: £7.95 (price per 200 ml: £6.36)
An American product, recently launched in England. Available from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London, W1; and Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1. For mail order: Selfridges 0171-629 1234; Harrods 0171-730 1234.
VERDICT: The finest mist I have found on a non-aerosol product. It smells more like eau de cologne than hairspray. My hair looked natural and stayed in good shape all day. None of the contents escaped from the bottle on to my hands. Impressive performance.
RATING: 9/10

TREVOR SORBIE
PROFESSIONAL
Affix Hairspray
200ml: £3.59
Available from Tesco, larger branches of Boots, and from Trevor Sorbie, 10 Russell Street, London WC2B 5HZ. For mail order, or your nearest stockist, ring 0171-497 2025.
VERDICT: Stylish packaging. A very fine mist which dispersed evenly and lightly on my hair and smelt fresh. Contains sunscreen. My hair looked natural and stayed in place all day. None of the contents strayed on to my hands. Impressive performance.
RATING: 9/10

L'OREAL TECNI FIX
Firm Hold Fixing Spray
125ml: £4.05 (price per 200ml: £6.45)
Available from L'Oréal-appointed hairdressing salons nationwide. For stockists, ring 0181-466 4266.
VERDICT: A compact, handbag-sized

Green dream can come to a sticky end



Pump it up... but you may feel let down if the spray goes astray

container. Contains sunscreen. Spray released a fine mist onto my hair, without dribbling down the bottle. Very good styling power without leaving my hair looking rigid. Performed well, but expensive.
RATING: 8/10

BODY DRENH SYSTEMS
Active Hold Hairspray
200ml: £9.95
Available from The Tanning Shop nationwide and selected professional outlets, including salons and health clubs. For stockists, ring 0171-493 0904.
VERDICT: The bottle was too big to hold comfortably with one hand, which meant the spray went in every direction but landed on my hair. However, once I had mastered the application, this spray worked well. Hairspray held without looking stiff or feeling sticky. At this price I wouldn't expect anything less.
RATING: 7/10

REVLON FLEX & CO
Maximum Hold Style and Shine
Non-Aerosol Hairspray
200ml: £2.5
Available from larger branches of

Boots, major department stores and independent chemists nationwide.
VERDICT: A spray that doesn't disperse over a large enough area, leaving only patches of sprayed hair even when I held the container further from my head than the 10in specified on the label. The spray did, however, hold the style well throughout the day. The liquid didn't dribble down the container but, after only one application, the nozzle was covered in a sticky residue. Good performance for the price.
RATING: 6/10

FINESSE
Moisturising Hairspray Extra Hold
200ml: £2.49
Available from good chemists and department stores nationwide.
VERDICT: A good fine mist that distributed evenly on my hair. However, the nozzle started to clog up the first time I used it and had to be rinsed in warm water after every application — I wouldn't want to have to do that every morning. My hairstyle held well for most of the day but had started to drop by late afternoon.
RATING: 5/10

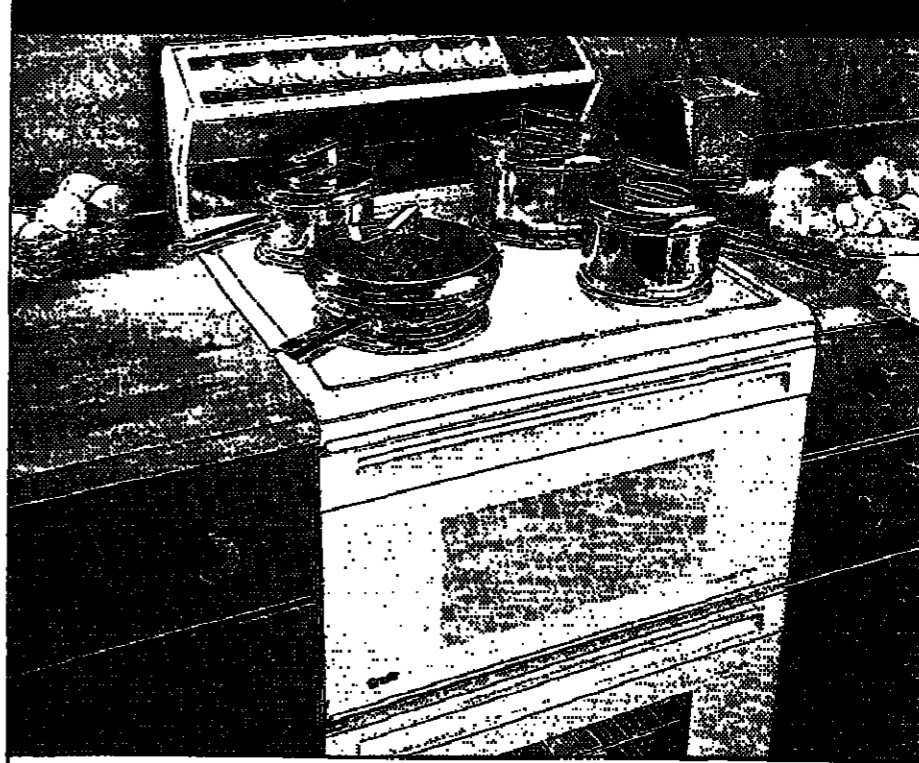
NICKY CLARKE
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Extra Hold Styling Spray
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200ml: £3.15
Available from Boots, Tesco, Waitrose, John Lewis, Superdrug, Savacentre, Fenwicks, Selfridges, Lloyds chemists, Moss chemists, Harrods, Jenners, Bentalls and William Low.
VERDICT: Stylish aluminium canister which stated that this spray contained aromatherapy extracts and sunscreens. It took a lot of pumps on the handle to activate the spray, which wasn't exactly a fine mist, landing in droplets. Unimpressive application made parts of my hair stiff and unnatural, but didn't touch the rest. It did hold the style, but rather more solidly than I would have liked. Some of the liquid dribbled around the top of the canister.
RATING: 3/10

BOOTS SALON SYSTEM
Non-Aerosol Hairspray for Firm Hold
250ml: £1.79 (price per 200 ml: £1.43)
Available from selected branches of Boots nationwide.
VERDICT: The bottle felt as if it had been smothered in glue after I'd used it. The fine mist sprayed onto my hair efficiently, but also leaked out of the applicator on to my hands. My hair looked good and the style lasted well, but I had to free my fingers from the container. Not a good start to the day.
RATING: 2/10

EDMONDS AROMATHERAPY
Strong Hold Juniper and Orange High Gloss Hairspray
250ml: £3.95 (price per 200ml: £3.16)
Available from Edmonds, 40 Beauchamp Place, Knightsbridge, SW3 1NX, or through large branches of Boots nationwide. For mail order and stockists ring: 0171-589 5958.
VERDICT: I ended up with this product all over my clothes and face as the four mini-jets of liquid directed the spray everywhere but my hair. A cumbersome, square-shaped bottled did little to help. The pleasant smell was the only saving grace.
RATING: 1/10

KAREN KAY

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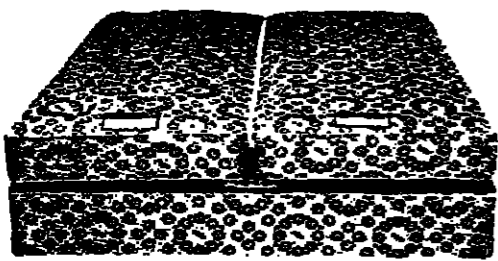
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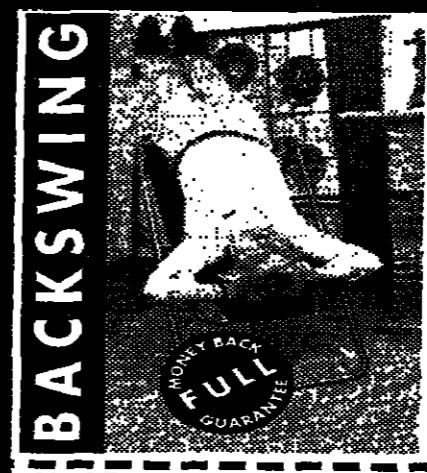
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HOME SWAPS: You don't have to be rich to see the world and stay in the best places, says Ray Hewinson

Foreign exchange deal

January in Hawaii, followed by two weeks skiing in Colorado, three weeks in France, 18 days in Amsterdam, then two months in a house overlooking the ocean in California — and it's still only November.

No, we haven't won the lottery. My wife, Sylvia, and I retired five years ago on a reasonable pension, moved down-market and paid off our mortgage. We're better off than the average pensioners — but not exactly rich.

"How, then, can you afford to travel so much?" people ask. It's simple. We seek out the best flight deals, exchange our home and car with a family abroad, and stay in what is usually a prestigious home for anything up to three months.

When we retired we planned to visit relatives in the Antipodes. We had both worked hard throughout our careers and had no inhibitions about spending some of our savings on a five-month trip around the world. After this memorable tour we were bitten by the travel bug but realised that we could not

afford another extravaganza. Then we discovered the wonderful world of house exchange.

The slogan on the cover of the Intervac home-exchange directory which fell onto our doormat read: "The book which could change your life." It was not an unreasonable claim because, within a couple of weeks of our directory entry appearing, a trickle of inquiries from would-be exchangers developed into a steady stream. One of them was an inquiry from Vancouver Island and we quickly arranged a "two-centre" exchange. We were met in Denver, Colorado, by the exchange family and driven to their house in Keystone Ranch. After a six-week stay we flew on to Seattle, took the ferry through the Orcas Islands off British Columbia and stayed in Victoria for another four weeks. It all went like a dream.

Encouraged by this success, we accepted invitations to trade with families in Torbay (a week over Easter with our grandson) and Suffolk, followed by a two-month autumn

exchange in a small southern Colorado community. We had fallen in love with this State on our first exchange and were not disappointed with the hospitality of this little cowboy town.

From the verandah of our ranch-style home we watched the deer and wild turkeys graze on the scrub and the aspens change from orange to gold and silver on the distant mountain range. Friends of the family in whose house we were staying took us to a rodeo, and we were invited out for countless meals. We were even taken on a flight in a light aircraft.

Our next adventure was a two-month exchange with two retired dentists and their wives. One couple owned a lovely home overlooking the shores of Kauai, the other owned a condominium in Winter Park, a premier ski resort in Colorado. We spent a magical six weeks on the island watching the whales as we ate fresh papayas for breakfast, snorkelling off the sandy cove nearby and getting

to know the locals, who were the most friendly and generous people imaginable. We returned via the mainland, where we stopped off at Denver and skied in the Rockies. All this for the cost of the airfare and the usual living expenses (food and fuel is cheaper in America).

After two short summer exchanges in France and Amsterdam, we spent two months in an upmarket beach resort north of San Diego, California. We exchanged with a couple who live in Beverly Hills and enjoyed their holiday home in exclusive Del Mar.

During this time we visited our exchange friends in Colorado, stopping off to discuss a winter exchange with a retired professor and his wife who lived on the edge of the Arizona desert. On our return journey, we spent the night in the Beverly Hills mansion of our current exchangers, parking the four-wheel-drive Chevrolet which we had at our disposal behind the Rolls-Royce Corniche. The maid cooked us breakfast before we were driven to the airport for our homeward flight.

By this time the lady of the house had returned from her stay in our cottage and we asked her how she had adjusted to life without a pool, hot tub or maid. It obviously wasn't a problem because she told us she thought our house was "so cute" and phoned us the following week to ask if we would exchange with one of her neighbours. As Pat Boone lived across the drive and John Bloom (of the washing-machine dynasty) lived next door, we reserved judgment on that. "Are you taking risks allowing strangers into your home?" is the most common question. We have had a few minor breakages, and one exchanger dented the front of our car, but we took out insurance cover for such problems when we joined the scheme. The agency accepts no



Exchanges allow you to visit places you would otherwise not be able to afford, such as the island of Kauai, Hawaii

responsibility for its members' shortcomings. Some exchangers offer references but the scheme depends on trust. We trust people with our home and they trust us with theirs. In ten exchanges our house has always been well cared for. It is possible to make a reasonable assessment of potential exchangers via letters and telephone conversations, and so far we have been fortunate in our contacts. Exchanging homes has produced a huge network of new friends, and many of our friends and neighbours have enjoyed meeting our guests. Last year two of our friends were invited to Colorado and we all met up in the holiday home where we had spent our first exchange. You don't need a mansion to succeed in the house exchange business; all sorts of homes are listed in the Intervac brochure from terraced houses to classy manors. We are fortunate to own an 18th

Home swaps: fact file

- The Hewinsons book flights through Trailfinders (0171-938-3366, fax 937-9294, for long-haul journeys, or 0171-937-5400 for transatlantic flights and Europe).
- Intervac is at 3 Orchard Court, North Wrexham, Wiltshire SN14 7AD (01225-992208). Membership: £65 a year.
- A seven-week stay in Del Mar last autumn cost the Hewinsons a total of £1,344, including Intervac membership, two return flights to Los Angeles at £402 each, allowing £105 for visits to Sea World safari park, museums, Del Mar zoo and wine tours, and £390 for a seven-day tour of Arizona, staying with Intervac friends and including two nights in a motel, meals and petrol.

they are seeking preferred locations, dates and time span. The cost of joining is modest compared with the advantages. Rates vary according to the size of the scheme. Intervac charges £65 per entry and covers 43 countries. The company publishes three directories annually, the main one in December. Before agreeing an exchange it is wise to ensure that both parties agree terms, such as payment of telephone bills, and understand what is expected of them, such as feeding the cat or mowing the lawn. It is also helpful to prepare a file with details of transport, places of interest to visit and how to contact emergency services.

We have certainly changed our lifestyle over the past few years and have travelled beyond our wildest dreams. The children's inheritance will be a little smaller but we wouldn't have missed our adventures for anything.

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مكتبات الأصيل

BARBADOS: Shakespeare and opera in the annual Holders Season, a highlight for visitors and locals

Hot nights of high drama

Jump up, jump up, jump up, jump up the beat insists, subtle as a steamhammer, and it is useless to resist. Be you ever such a two-left-feeter at home, you find yourself getting up under that Caribbean sky and shaking your booty.

After a few nights, though, you long for a little diversity, music more challenging than Bob Marley's *Exodus*. Richard Strauss's *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, perhaps, some Shakespeare or even grand opera. The sort of entertainment you'd expect to find in London or New York. Of course, it's a daft idea but that, magically, is just what you will find in Barbados every year round about Easter, when the Holders Season is under way.

For no sensible reason, Johnny and Wendy Kidd (parents of superwaif Jody) got together with a friend, Richard Hanlon, and dreamed up a cultural festival: the dream became reality and what started life four years ago as a few evenings of opera extracts is now a three-week season of opera, Shakespeare, drama, recitals and cabaret, with an ambitious sporting programme as well.

Most events take place at the Kidds family home, Holders, an old plantation house. Last year, while Britain shivered, Nichola McAuliffe, Christopher Biggins and Kit and the Widow went through the living hell of rehearsing *The Taming of the Shrew* in the sun-baked garden, with only a swimming pool at hand.

Informality is the keynote of the Holders Season. On the first night of *Madam Butterfly*, where the Wren Orchestra competed with whistling tree frogs (pitched somewhere between B and D) in the natural amphitheatre of the Holders garden, the audience sat on plastic chairs ranged on the grass in the shade of towering mahogany and flamboyant trees. And while some designer frocks and serious rocks



Garden rehearsals for *The Taming of the Shrew*

were on show, there were plenty of shorts and sandals, and the High Commissioner was wearing a green spotted shirt borrowed from his son.

From the start, everyone was determined to keep this a festival for Barbados, and although visitors outnumbered everyone else at the cabaret acts held in various ritzy hotels in the west-coast parishes of St James's and St Peter's, the majority of the audiences are Bajan. Since Bajan English has retained some of the cadences, lilt and colour of Elizabethan, Shakespeare's language presents little obstacle and I sat near some children who were open-mouthed with pleasure at Kate's antics as Petruccio tames her spirit by starvation.

It's thespians by night but during the day sport comes to the fore. Last year's celebrity golf tournament saw Geoffrey Boycott and Nigel Mansell competing on the Royal Westmoreland's world-class course and, if you didn't fancy the polo, you could have climbed up to the diminutive Holder's

Hill pitch where the fast bowlers have to cross the road and keep an eye out for oncoming traffic before taking a run up. Rather Heath Robinson you might think, but the 1995 match, free to anyone who cared to turn up, saw the Holders Village team pitted against an eleven flown in by John Paul Getty.

It's all thoroughly laid back, unless you're running the season. Richard Hanlon, executive producer, told me he'd slept for three days at the end of last season. Fortunately, all that's forgotten now, and the fourth season is looming.

Nichola McAuliffe returns to star in *Twelfth Night*, Christopher Biggins will direct *Tosca* and *The Mikado*, and the finale will be a tribute to George Gershwin. Relaxed it may be, but it's also very *Hello!*-ish. At last year's opening gala I spotted Claudette Colbert, 90-odd and still recognisably the sassy headdress who had Clark Gable smitten in *It Happened One*



Long lazy days on the beach can be followed by evenings of festival entertainment of the sort you'd find in London

Night all those years ago. Lesley Joseph, from *Birds of a Feather*, had rented a beach house, and Nicholas Parsons arrived to get married, a quiet affair with a few close acquaintances and the photographers from, yes, *Hello!*. Despite the glam names, there is an undiscovered, low-key charm about the Holders Season at present but if, as rumour has it, Signor Pavarotti puts in an appearance in 1997, it will never be the same again. Better put your towel on the beach now, before the crowds arrive.

MARY LEA

Getting there

The fourth Holders Season runs from March 9-30 1996. Make arrangements through your hotel or contact Holders (00 1 809 432 6385, Fax 00 1 809 4326 467). Tickets from £8-£50.

The author was a guest of the Barbados Tourism Authority, 263 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 9448/9, Fax 0171-637 1496), and BA.

Flights from Britain are operated by British West Indian Airways and BA, from £713 return. There are weekly flights on Concorde (£4,620 return) on March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and 31.

Operators: Caribbean Connection (01244 341131) and Elegant Resorts (01244 897 999).

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visit to Embilipitiya in Udawalawe National Park and Ratnapura in Sinharaja Forest Reserve which offer incomparable rainforest scenery and wildlife. From here you drive back to Colombo where your Sri Lankan experience ends.

Itinerary at a Glance

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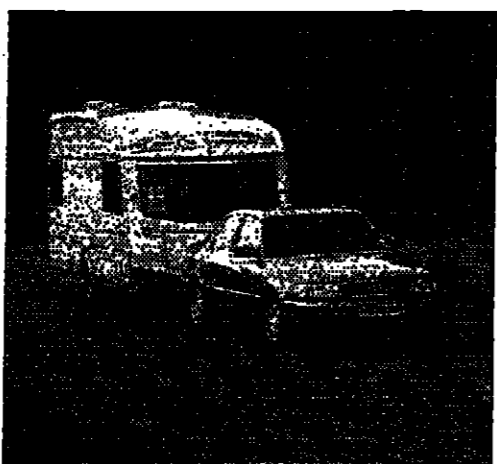
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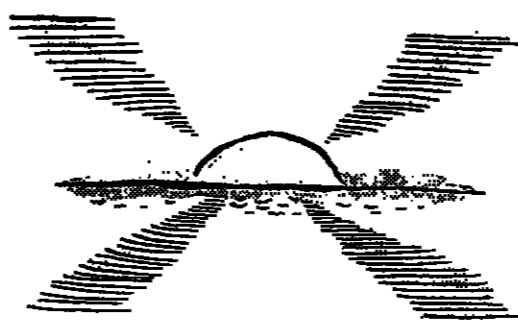
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EGYPT: The newly opened tomb of Queen Nefertari near Luxor is claimed to be the most beautiful of all



Part of one of the many exquisite murals in Nefertari's tomb in the Valley of the Queens

Secrets of a favoured wife

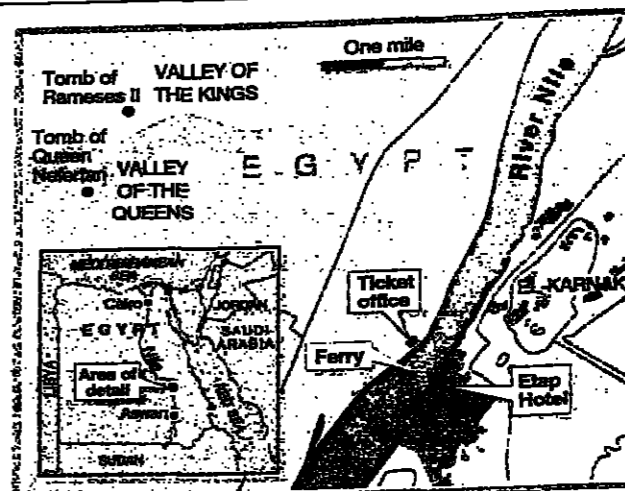
A "new" tomb sounds like a contradiction in terms when it is in the Valley of the Queens, but that is the simplest way to describe Egypt's latest tourist attraction, and provides an excellent reason for a return trip, or an added incentive for a first one. More than 90 years after its discovery, Queen Nefertari's tomb has been opened to the public for the first time. New is the wrong word for what was intended to be the last resting place of Ramesses II's favourite wife, cut into a hillside about 3,200 years ago, but the astonishing thing is that the colours of the murals are as bright and rich as if they had just been painted.

You cannot just wander in on a whim, or expect to be

herded through as part of a package tour, but if you make the effort to be one of only 150 visitors allowed in each day, you will be rewarded with an unforgettable sight. The tomb was discovered in 1904 by the Italian Ernesto Schiaparelli and is one of 80 found in the Valley of the Queens. Most are uninscribed. Nefertari's, one of only four open to visitors at the moment, is revealed to be overwhelmingly beautiful and gorgeously decorated — the best in Egypt some people say.

When it was found, the painted stucco relief was badly damaged by salt and water, the queen's mummy was destroyed and her treasures long plundered. Now, after meticulous restoration work, largely provided by the Getty Conser-

vation Institute of California, the salt encrustations have been removed and the slipping stucco invisibly refixed with slivers of bark from the Japanese mulberry tree. A first staircase leads down to the hall and the start of the treasure trove of wall paintings. The vision that greeted our party was almost too much to take in and, at first, disconcertingly perfect. Apart from one blank wall to the left as you enter the hall, where the most badly damaged reliefs had fallen to bits, every inch of the 520 square yards, apart from the new wood floor, is decorated. Through the corridors and pillared halls, a life-size Nefertari is shown in numerous scenes, before different gods of the underworld be-



neath a ceiling of deep-blue sky scattered with gold stars. Although her tomb has only just been officially opened, Nefertari has always been famous: she is the same consort of Ramesses II (who lived to the age of 93, reigned 67 years, from 1304 BC to 1236 BC, and fathered 200 children) to whom he paid the honour of building a temple beside his own at Abo Simbel. Nefertari, who was reputed to be a great beauty (her name means "beautiful lady"), is shown on her tomb walls to be tall and slim, elegant in a long white dress with a simple sash, as with perfect posture she makes her offerings to the gods or plays a game of draughts. The craftsmanship is particularly fine, and unusual in that shading was used to give her face form.

We had, by chance, picked a quiet time for our visit, at 11am on a Saturday morning. Our tour was unhurried, and there were only a handful of other similarly awestruck visitors, in welcome contrast to the noisy, jostling groups in the other tombs. I was touched at the genuine pride of the attendants, who, far from being blasé after a lifetime of tomb-sitting, eagerly pointed out hidden features.

Contrary to reports just before the tomb opened last November, visitors were not made to wear face masks to preserve the walls from the moisture of their breath, or to shuffle about in shoe covers. We were allowed to walk through the 30-yard long tomb without so much as a buffer of glass panels or guard rails. Its guardians are satisfied that the relatively small numbers passing through are no danger to the relics.

There is talk of building a replica tomb next door to accommodate coach parties, and, although there are no definite plans so far, a visit to the real tomb, sooner rather than later, seems a wise precaution.

Although the high entrance price — £E100 (about £20), which is ten to 20 times higher than for other tombs — has reduced the number of visi-

tors, Nefertari's last resting place is still popular. For the best chance of getting in you need a flexible itinerary which includes a stay in Luxor. A Nile cruise with a tight schedule is not suitable — though not impossible if you are bold enough to jump ship on a "must see", such as El-Karnak, because tickets have to be bought on the day, and no tour operator can guarantee you one. It is best to go it alone.

The ticket office is on the west bank of the Nile just behind the Colossi of Memnon, and is open 6am-noon and 1-4pm. You should aim to be there by 7.30am. If you go later and are not able to get a ticket, you can take the opportunity to examine the Colossi.

From your hotel in Luxor, walk or take a taxi to the tourist ferry in front of the Etap Hotel. The first ferry leaves at 6am and the crossing takes ten minutes. On the other side of the river, taxis will be waiting to run you up to the ticket kiosk and on to the Valley of the Queens, wait however long you need, and then return you to the ferry. Before getting into the taxi, however, negotiate the hire charge, not per person, of £E20 (about £4), bearing in mind that the driver will expect to receive £E25 including *bakshesh*.

Tickets for the other tombs, and temples on the west bank can be bought from the kiosk next to the ferry before you engage the taxi.

Queen Nefertari's tomb is this year's hot ticket, the one everyone will ask you about when you get home. There's no doubt that its exclusivity adds to its touristic kudos. And, perhaps, part of the excitement and satisfaction comes from winning the obstacle race to get in. Whatever the reason, it is truly a gem.

CAROLINE HENDRIE

The author was a guest of Somak Holidays (0181-423 3000), which offers a seven-night Nile cruise aboard the Osiris from £399, including flights from Gatwick, transfers and full board. The same cruise followed by seven nights' B&B at the Hilton Luxor costs from £544.

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*Hotels subject to availability for a limited travel period.

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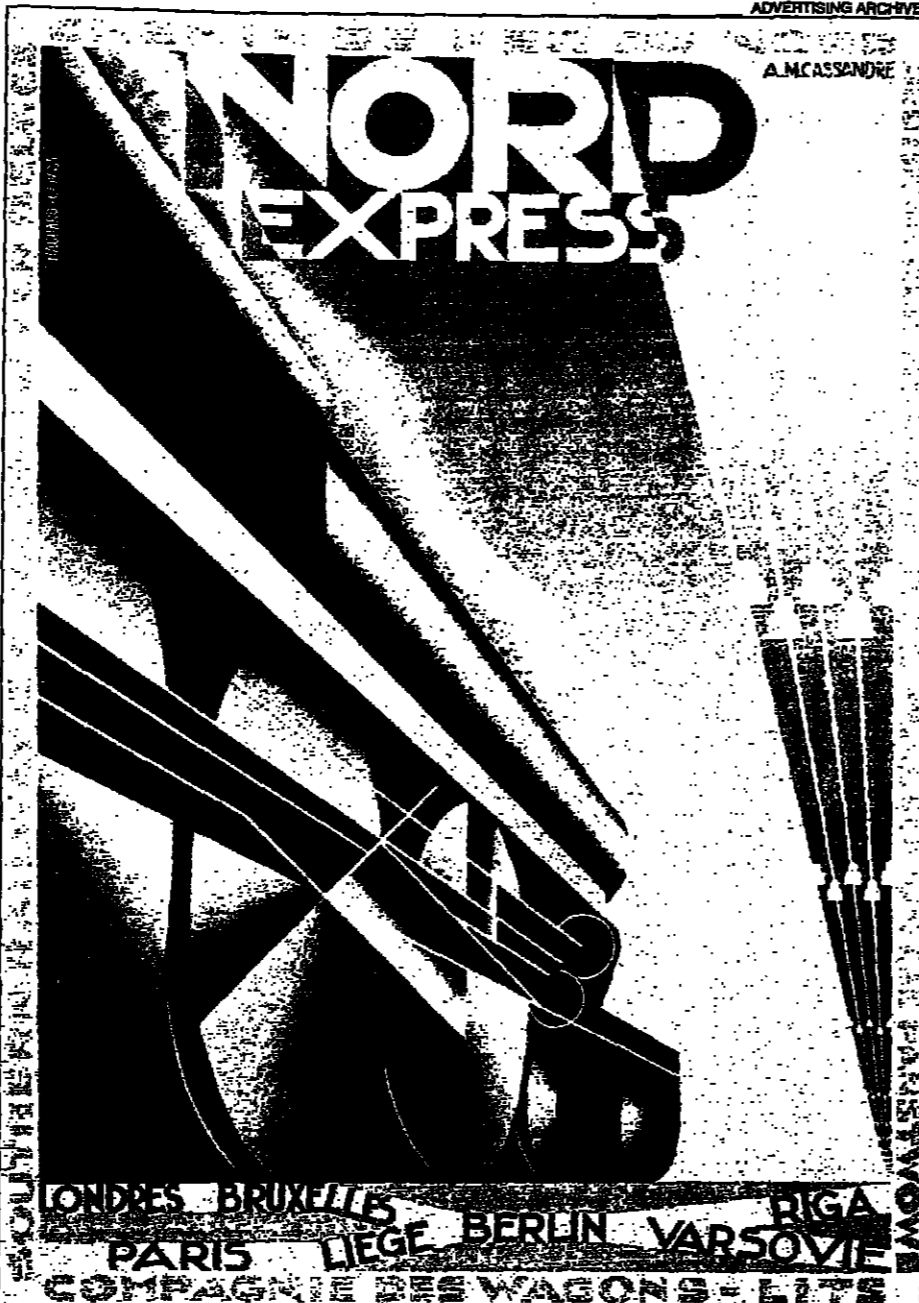
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TRAVEL 19

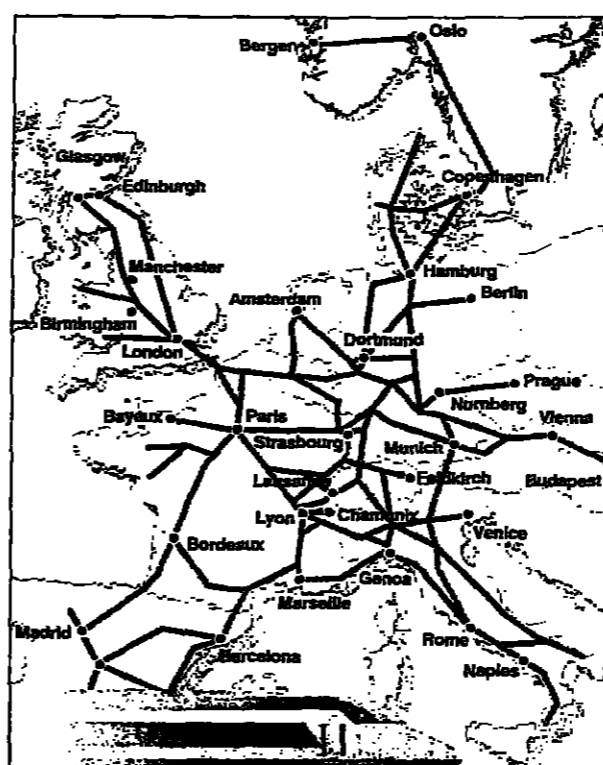
EUROPE: For £275, the Inter-Rail opens the borders to 26 countries for a month

Jump aboard the freedom train

"I was raining in Berlin, so we went to Bergen. There aren't many holidays where you can afford to change your plans so easily on a whim — or because of the weather. But we were Inter-Railing and, £275 a head, we had the freedom to explore more than a dozen countries, and to experience a kaleidoscope of cultures for a month. And at a kaleidoscope, microscopes need have no fear: there is no danger of being threatened by such a trip to experience the wonders for themselves. Even the railway stations are different: only in Paris did there be the ornate, tiled ceiling and turn-of-the-century luxury of the station and the Gare de St. Lazare; and only in the former Berlin Hauptbahnhof did there be a queue, patrolled by guards, to enter a market which has pickled cabbage as its main duct. The ever-changing national times, traits, tastes and civilities of Europeans can be sampled from a railway carriage. In Norway passengers are served ice-cream on the journey from Oslo to Bergen and train travels over spectacular mountain passes where snow lies even in the summer. Switzerland the immaculate carriages and the manicured countryside make you feel like a passenger on a toy train network; in Hungary the carriages are littered with the carcasses of rusted steam locomotives. The Inter-Rail scheme is a well-established idea. An all-ages "global" ticket, costing £5 and valid for one month, takes the holder unrestricted second-class rail travel throughout the 26 participating European countries. Last year, for the first time, Europe was divided into five zones: a set for 15 days of travel in zone costs £185, or £220 for month in two zones. In addition, tickets are now available to those over 26, although the prices are higher and the ticket is valid only for Northern and Eastern Europe (15 days, £215; one month, £275). It was some time before we realised that the retired history teacher from the West Coast of Ireland, whom we had met late at night on



Making tracks — but don't forget the Thomas Cook European Rail Timetable



Inter-Rail pass and zones

Information and booking: the International Rail Centre at Victoria station, London, or phone 0171-834 2345. Credit card bookings can be made on 0171-828 0892.

Prices: One zone for 15 days, £185; Two zones for one month, £220; Any three zones for one month, £245; All zones for one month, £275. For £5, the centre will help to plan an itinerary.

Zones:

- A: Republic of Ireland.
- B: Norway, Sweden, Finland.
- C: Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark.
- D: Czech and Slovak republics, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia.
- E: France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg.
- F: Spain, Portugal, Morocco.
- G: Italy, Greece, Turkey, Slovakia. Includes AND/HML ferry services between Brindisi (Italy) and Patras (Greece).

Copenhagen station, was on the same holiday as ourselves. There are a few drawbacks to the Inter-Rail ticket. Within the United Kingdom you get only 30 per cent off rail journeys and a 50 per cent reduction on most ferry routes to the Continent. Indeed, most guides to travelling with an Inter-Rail ticket suggest that it is cheaper to travel to ferry ports by coach rather than train. In addition to this, throughout Europe various extra reservations and supplements are payable on inter-city services. The wise traveller soon learns to check these out and to pay

any extra at the railway station before departure — it is less hassle and cheaper. The key to making the most of the Inter-Rail ticket is using the enormous flexibility it allows. We had planned to visit Budapest for a couple of nights only, but discovered that on £10 a day you can live like a king, so we spent a few afternoons in pampered luxury at the thermal sulphur baths of the Hotel Gellert, and stayed for the national celebrations of St Stephen's day. Your interests can shape the holiday: of all the people we met Inter-Railing, not one had the same route or set of places to visit as ourselves. We went to Bayeux to see the tapestry; to Chambray for some mountain walking; to Lausanne to visit the museum of the Olympic movement; and to Feldkirch because we had changed some money into Austrian schillings before we left England. Then we visited Budapest and Prague, before going to Germany to spend the weekend with some friends who work near Nuremberg. After this, we went to Berlin, where we were just in time to see the remains of Checkpoint Charlie, surrounded by crushed fragments of the Berlin Wall, before the area is redeveloped. We finished our month by visiting Scandinavia, which, contrary to its reputation of being expensive, proved to be one of the cheapest countries on our itinerary. This is mainly due to the fact that Norwegian law permits wild camping on any site that is more than 150 metres away from a building. The Inter-Rail centres at Co-

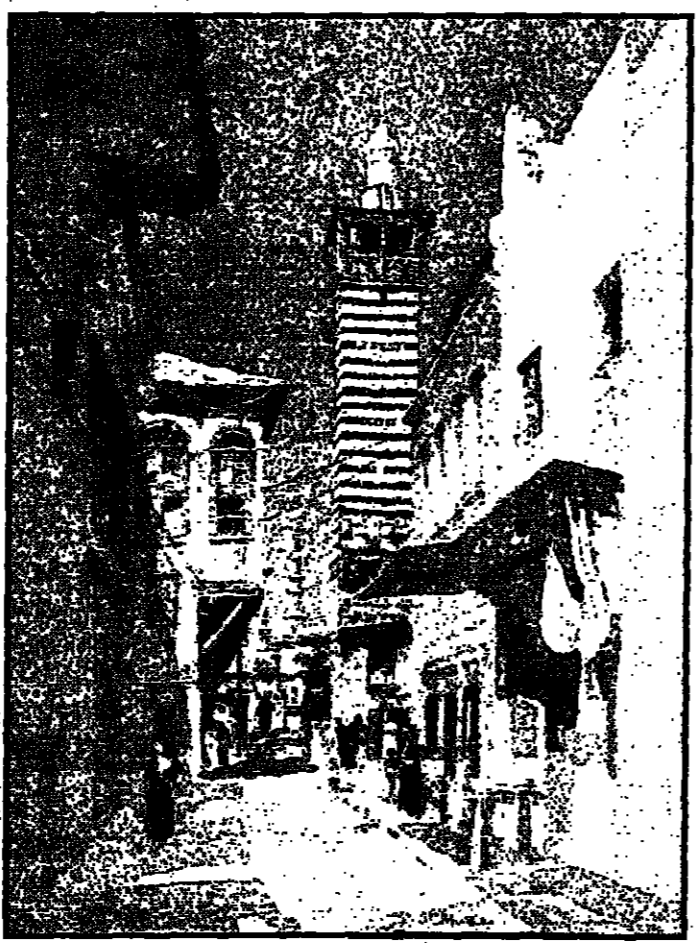
penhagen and Oslo stations (funded by the state-owned rail companies which want to encourage tourism) are worth visiting; at the very least they provide an opportunity for a cheap and much-needed shower.

There is only one item that is indispensable on an Inter-Rail tour; the Thomas Cook European Rail Timetable. Read it carefully, and pay special attention to the footnotes; a quick glance which ignored these led us to spend a night outside Oslo station with gentle drizzle for company. To travel Europe by train is an incomparable experience; it allows you to visit old friends and to make new ones; to see places most only read of in newspapers or history books. It definitely shows that whatever the politicians of the present or future decide, people in Europe may live with each other in friendship, but the differences between them will survive. The hungry Inter-Rail traveller can taste those differences at every café and railway station visited — even when the meals are the least expensive. There is a world of difference between the bread and cheese of France, washed down with a glass of wine, and the bread and fish of Norway, fresh from the market on the dockside at Bergen. But the appetite that is really whetted is the appetite for travel. At the very least, a month spent travelling Europe by Inter-Rail provides you with enough trailers for future holidays to last you the rest of your life.

MATTHEW BRYANT

Damascus to Palmyra

Syria has never been an easy place to visit, and often in the past involving multiple border crossings from neighbouring countries causing delay and a reduction in the amount of actual vacation time. Since the ideal time to visit is between September and May and that the best starting point is Damascus, we shall be operating a short flight service from London Gatwick direct to Damascus during this period. Needless to say, this also considerably reduces the cost. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit Syria, one of the world's most fascinating countries. We reach Damascus in the evening and spend the first night in the oldest living city in the world and the Islamic capital under the Omayyads. Exploration of the city has to be on foot, navigating the tortuous alleys of the old city is wonderful. For many the highlight will be the Church of Ananias at the end of a Street Called Straight. Here, the stories of the Bible come magically to life, irrespective of your religious beliefs. We will see the chapel commemorating the lowering down of St Paul from a window.



visit the Citadel, the National Museum, the Souk and explore the covered bazaars, the largest in the Middle East. Day 6 Drive towards the Mediterranean via the Castle of Saladin and briefly visit the Phoenician city of Tyre which gave the world the first alphabet. Continue south along the coast to visit the Crusader cathedral of Tartous and on to Homs for one night stay at the Saffir Hotel. Day 7 Today visit Crac des Chevaliers, the residence of the Crusader Knights-Hospitallers. Then to Bosra to see the finely preserved Roman Theatre and railway station in Damascus for a one-night stay. Day 8 In the morning make a visit to the Church of Ananias at the end of a Street Called Straight. Spend the rest of the day in Damascus with the opportunity to shop in the local markets or explore the city independently. Board the evening flight and return directly to London Gatwick.

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Day 2 Tour of Damascus including Omayyad Mosque, the National Museum, Saladin's tomb and the old city. Drive to nearby Maaloula for an overnight stay.

Day 3 Morning excursion from Aleppo to the 5th-century church of St Simeon the Stylite. Return to Aleppo and overnight in Maaloula for an overnight stay.

Day 4 In the morning walk through the ruins then drive to Aleppo for a two-night stay at the Pullman Hotel. On the way visit Ebla, where 16,000 clay tablets were discovered.

Day 5 Morning excursion from Aleppo to the 5th-century church of St Simeon the Stylite. Return to Aleppo and overnight in Maaloula for an overnight stay.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

TEICHOPSIA
(c) A term coined by Dr Hubert Airy, son of the Astronomer Royal, and first published in the *Transactions of the Royal Society*, 1878. It describes the aura (warning) of a migraine attack — the flashing zigzag lines, the hallucination slowly enlarging, often with a scotoma (aura of blindness) in the centre, all of 5 to 60 (average 30) minute duration.

EMPEROR'S CHAMBERMAID
(c) The 14th King's Hussars, now the 14th/20th King's Hussars, a famous English cavalry regiment trained in the hunting field. At the Battle of Vittoria, 1813, they captured Joseph Bonaparte's carriage and retained his silver chamber-pot as a souvenir.

COCKPIT OF EUROPE
(a) By the accidents of history, geography and folly, the muddy place now called Belgium has seen more squawking and fighting than anywhere else in the world. Forget the Romans, it has been the stage for the battles of Ramillies (1706), Fontenoy (1745), Jemappes (1792), Ligny, Quatre Bras and Waterloo (1815), Mons, Ypres and much other barbed wire, bombs and blood (1914-18).

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TRAVEL

SKIING: Why it makes sense to hire an approved mountain guide; plus last-minute bargain breaks

Follow the leader to the best of the snow

The high-season crowds on piste make off piste powder even more inviting. But after forking out for a lift pass and holiday package, many British skiers consider guides to be an unnecessary expense. Wrong. This is one of the most dangerous seasons for snow security in years. And even early-intermediate skiers are now demanding access to erstwhile black runs, many now reclassified as "itineraries" or "off piste" by resorts unwilling to accept patrol responsibilities. The mountain guide has replaced the ski teacher as an essential holiday "extra". A day's off piste skiing with a guide should cost around £100-£150 for a group of three to four people. Tour operators have been quick to spot the trend. Specialised weeks dedicated to teaching beginners how to ski in deep snow now lead on to trans-alpine ski safaris. The future is wide body skis, inevitably dubbed "fat boys". I have seen Verbier and Val d'Isère tracked out in hours by skiers on fat boys who wouldn't go near a couloir on

their more difficult to negotiate normal skis. With 150 skiers killed in avalanches every winter, certified mountain guides make sense. Skiing with a guide adds immeasurable value to a holiday. In Andermatt, Alex Clapasson took me down narrow chutes stuffed with snow at a time when most of the mountain was sheet ice and crust. Over in Val d'Isère Patrick Zimmer led us past cement-thick snow around the Espace Killy to sheltered areas of loose powder. Skiing the best snow on the mountain is enhanced by knowing just how indifferent the snow is in other sectors. Skiing powder down a "hidden" valley while your friends are standing in a lift queue on piste is the ultimate convincer. There are few personal relationships more important than guide and client. Swiss guides, in Zermatt in particular, have a reputation for being haughty. I would ski any time with Jean-Marie Ollanti (00 33 5053 0088) of the Compagnie des Guides in Chamonix; Ueli Frei (00 41 3653 1352) in Grindelwald;



Ueli Frei, a guide in Grindelwald, takes a break after a gruelling morning run with the author

Alex Clapasson (00 41 4467 770) in Andermatt; Patrick Zimmer (00 33 7906 1480) in Val d'Isère; Roland Stieger (00 33 5054 4353) in Chamonix or Hans Solmssen (00 41 2631 7683) in Verbier. Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) has the best off piste

guides and the best intro programmes I've experienced. Mountain Reality (00 41 4467 770) has the most ambitious range of ski safaris, skiing from hotel to hotel across Italy and Switzerland. Loyal fans of guide John Hogg, now back in Canada, should note that

Mountain Reality now handles all Hogg's safari routes. Both The Ski Company (0171-730 9600) and Collineige (01276 24262) have holidays where local guides accompany skiers on a weekly basis.

DOUG SAGER

Great white holiday deals

THERE is still time to get a good discount on your skiing holiday if you book now before the school half-term rush in mid-February.

Some of the best deals are in the big resorts in France and Switzerland. At the time of going to press the following deals are on offer: Mark Warner (0171-393 3131) has a week in its chalet hotel in Verbier for £299, £216 off the brochure price. Bladon Lines (0181-780 8800) quoted £289 for a week in Tignes, a discount of £170. Snowtime (0171-433 3336) had space in its chalet hotel in Méribel for £299, less than half the brochure price. Chalet holidays typically include flights and coach transfers, breakfast, afternoon tea, dinner and ski guiding.

For rock-bottom prices try Crystal (0181-399 5144), which quoted self-catering apartments at £199 per person, including flight and transfers, and catered chalet holidays at £259 in France. That's as long you don't mind where you go guaranteeing the resort of your choice costs an extra £40. Upmarket, Ski Scott Dunn



Big resorts in France and Switzerland offer good deals

(0181-767 0202) quoted £399 (down from £505) for a luxury chalet in Zermatt, including tea or coffee in bed, canapés before dinner, champagne and a picnic on the slopes. Simply Ski (0181-742 2541) is offering the luxury Chalet Nojanne in Verbier at £389, almost half price. If time is limited, Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) could do a weekend at Hotel Hirschen in Grindelwald half board for £449, from

February 1-4, travelling Swissair with minibus transfers.

Italy and North America have been selling well, so bargains there are few and far between. If you haven't got time to call around, a specialist ski travel agency such as Ski Solutions (0171-602 9900) can do the legwork.

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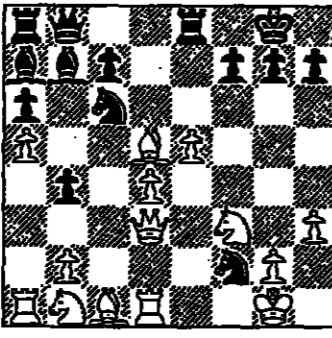
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GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

I AM often asked what is the best way to improve once the elementary stage has been passed in chess. One of the best methods is to pick a hero and study that player's games in some depth...



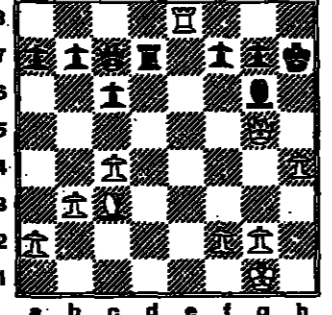
The idea is that if White captures the knight the pin on d4 allows captures at e5 with counterplay. For example 18 Kxd2 Nxe5 19 Nxe5 Bxd5 20 Be3 c5 when Black is a piece down but White's position is unstable...

18 Bxf7+ Kxf7 19 Qf5+ Kg8 20 Ng5 Nxd1 21 Qxd7+ Kf8 22 Qh8+ Kf7 23 Qxg7+ Kf8 24 Nf7+ Kxf7

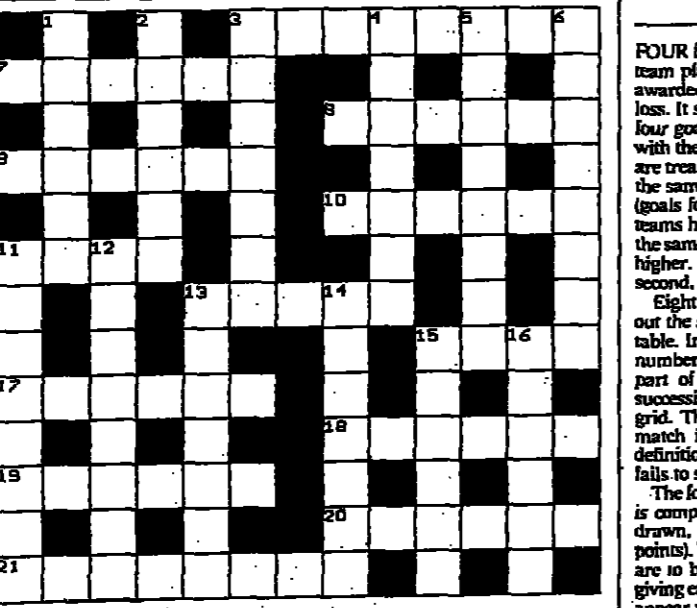
This is probably not necessary as Black's bishop is heading for b7, but White wanted to make sure that it was kept away from g4, where the pin on the knight would weaken White's control of d4.

by Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Heimerick - Wustendrofer, Germany 1926. Black is threatening to launch a counter-attack against the white king with rook check on the back rank. Nevertheless, it is White to move and he made the most of this. Can you see how? White to move. Send your answers on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday. Last week's solution: 1 Qf6



TWO CROSSWORD



ACROSS: 3 Fighting ship; frigate bird (3-2-3); 7 Look for food (6); 8 Trickily escapes (6); 9 Merchant of Venice heroine (6); 10 Italian unification leader (6); 11 Incentive (4); 13 Sneering and derogatory (5); 15 Little biting insect (4); 17 Seasoned stew (6); 18 Protective end of shoe (6); 19 Antonin --, New World symphonist (6); 20 Eat daintily (6); 21 Old hilltop track (8); DOWN: 1 Glim (6); 2 Frantically used (6); 3 Dark skin pigment (7); 4 Get round; get rid of (7); 5 Extensive (spaces); undecided (easiest) (4,4); 6 Place limits on (8); 11 A dog; part of Canada (8); 12 Jostle --, potter (8); 13 Meat/bread/seasoning in a tube (7); 14 Fate (7); 15 Passes; takes as authority (4,2); 16 Suitable for crops (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 689: ACROSS: 1 Tobago 4 RSVF 9 Chime 10 Utrillo 11 Titania 12 Canoe 13 Aphrodisiac 17 Aural 19 Respect 22 Capsule 23 Drier 24 Ludo 25 Jekyll DOWN: 1 Tactic 2 Bird up 7 Cut and dried 8 Finesse 14 Roll up 15 Argenity 16 Marced 18 Rapid 20 Slide 21 Tyrol (Tiro)

PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.



The advent of Dial-A-Pizza is greeted with some scepticism (above) was submitted by Frank Waters of London



The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Frank Waters of London

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TEICHOSPISA a. An autumn rock plant b. Second sight c. Preliminary headache

EMPEROR'S CHAMBERMAID a. A fabled Amazonian team b. The Austrian Imperial Guard c. The 14th King's Hussars

COCKPIT OF EUROPE a. Belgium b. The New Testament c. Serbia

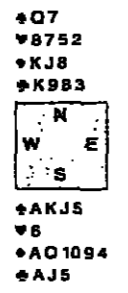
WHITE SAMITE a. A dedicated Crusader b. A heavy silk c. An American rebel

Answers on page 19

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THIS was the second question of the Christmas quiz. You are the declarer in Six Diamonds.



West leads the ace and king of hearts. How do you play after ruffing the second heart? The main line, as the chess players call it, is an example of a dummy-reversal. That is a technique in which the declarer takes ruffs in the long trump hand and draws trumps in the short hand.

Question 3 was on quotations: five marks for each correct one. All the quotes were from colourful characters and great players, now dead. The player who instructed his protégé that "there's only one player in this partnership who can lead trump, and it ain't you kid" was Lew Marhe. Rio Marcus famously used to advise her partners in individual tournaments: "No signals, will know your distribution better than you do." Giorgio Belladonna said "Grazie" when Garozzo (still with us of course) put down the dummy, forgetting the code that he was required to say "thank you" if the bidding sequence had gone off without a hitch.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



Viennese whirl: classical music for children

"TWO major films based on the Frederick and Rosemary West saga vie for the limelight," predicts Martin Leigh of Twyford, Hampshire. Fred and Rosie, directed by Quentin Tarantino and starring Harvey Keitel as Frederick, Kathy Bates as Rosemary and Tommy Lee Jones as the detective seems to have the edge over a rival production, Gone West, starring Sylvester Stallone, Goldie Hawn and (surprise, surprise) Tommy Lee Jones as the detective.

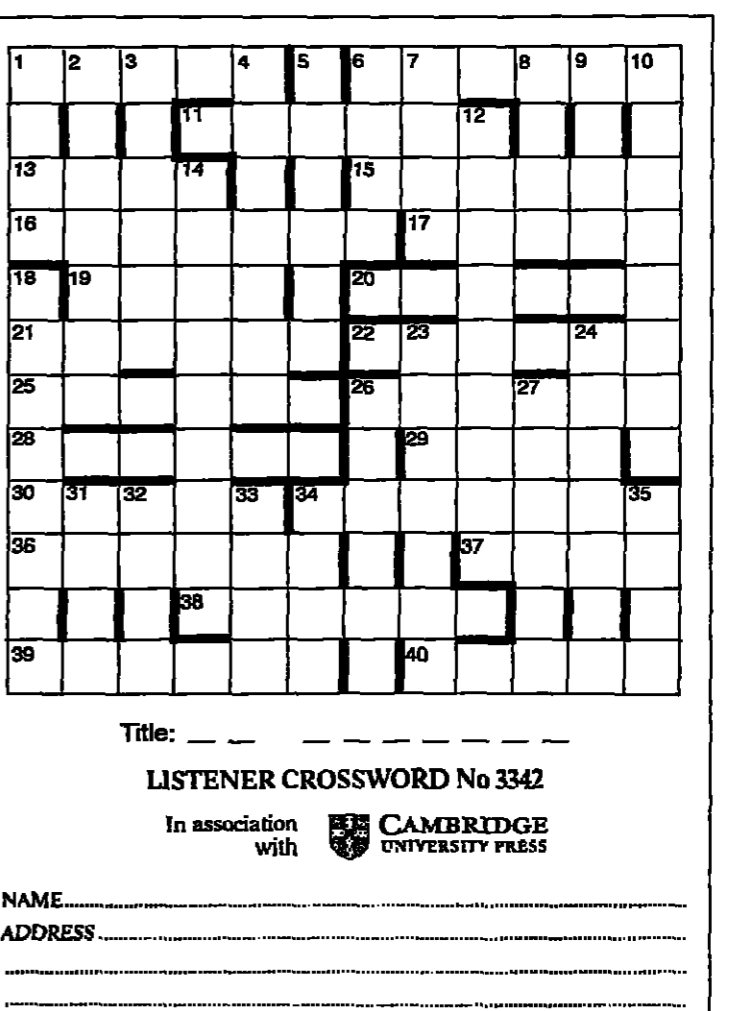
along to a choice of three songs, each with a visual guide. If you get the hang of strumming mostly in the right places, the right notes and chord changes can be heard and your career will take off with lightning speed. Next you practise in a garage with your band and then the slimy old agent arrives with news of your first gig at a rundown roadside bar. If you play well and the gig goes well you progress up the ladder towards the ultimate goal -- to play alongside the members of Aerosmith at a sell-out concert.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3342: 2, 10, 8, 4, 0, 0, 12, 5, 13 by Aldhelm

FOUR football teams -- A, B, C and D -- formed a league and each team played each of the others at home and away. Each team was awarded two points for a win, one point for a draw and none for a loss. It so happened that no fewer than two goals and no more than four goals per match were scored and that no two matches finished with the same score for the purposes of this puzzle. 2-0 and 0-2, say, are treated as different scores. In the final table, if two teams shared the same number of points, the one with the greater goal difference (goals for minus goals against) finished higher up the table. If two teams had the same number of points and their goal difference was the same, the team which scored the greater number of goals finished higher. At the end of the season, A were the champions, with B second, C third and D fourth.

Solution to No 3339: Endangered Species by Machiavelli. Thematic Lights were: Across: 1 P(HO)B(L)A 4 B(R)EAK(W)A(T)E(R) 9 LAC(Q)UE(Y) 12 I(M)A(R)E(T) 14 C(R)E(M)I(N)A 19 S(T)E(R)N(A)G(E) 20 (A)J(L)I(N)G 29 C(O)M(B)A(T)I(N)G 30 (Z)O(I)N(A)T(I)O(N) 38 R(E)A(L)E(A)D 39 M(A)L(A)R(K)Y 43 P(I)C(A)D(O)R(I)S 48 K(A)F(K)A(K) 49 (P)I(G)E(O)N 51 W(L)K(J)I(N) Down: 1 P(I)G(N)U(T) 4 B(R)I(E)F(L)Y 6 A(D)V(E)N(T)U(R)E 10 A(Q)U(E)M(A)N 11 C(O)I(L)M(A)R 18 C(R)A(C)K(E)R(J)A(C)K 36 P(L)A(N)T(A)I(N)S 40 N(I)T(R)A(T)E 42 S(E)C(U)R(E) 44 S(A)N(S)E(I)

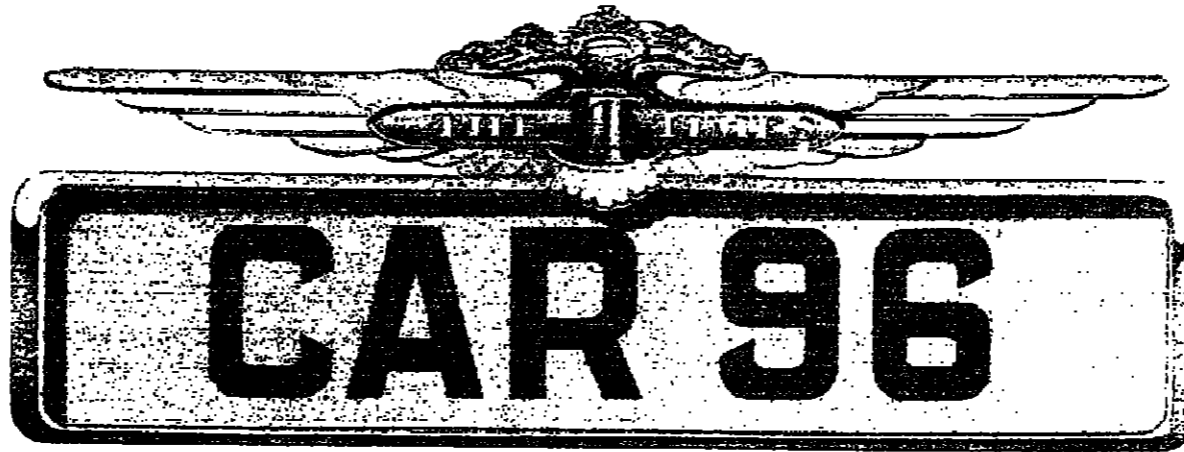


Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3342, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, February 8. The winner will receive The Cambridge Encyclopedia, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available with over 30,000 entries. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and The Cambridge Guide to Literature, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive The Cambridge Guide to Literature.



The restored beast that is going for a beauty of a price

Page 3

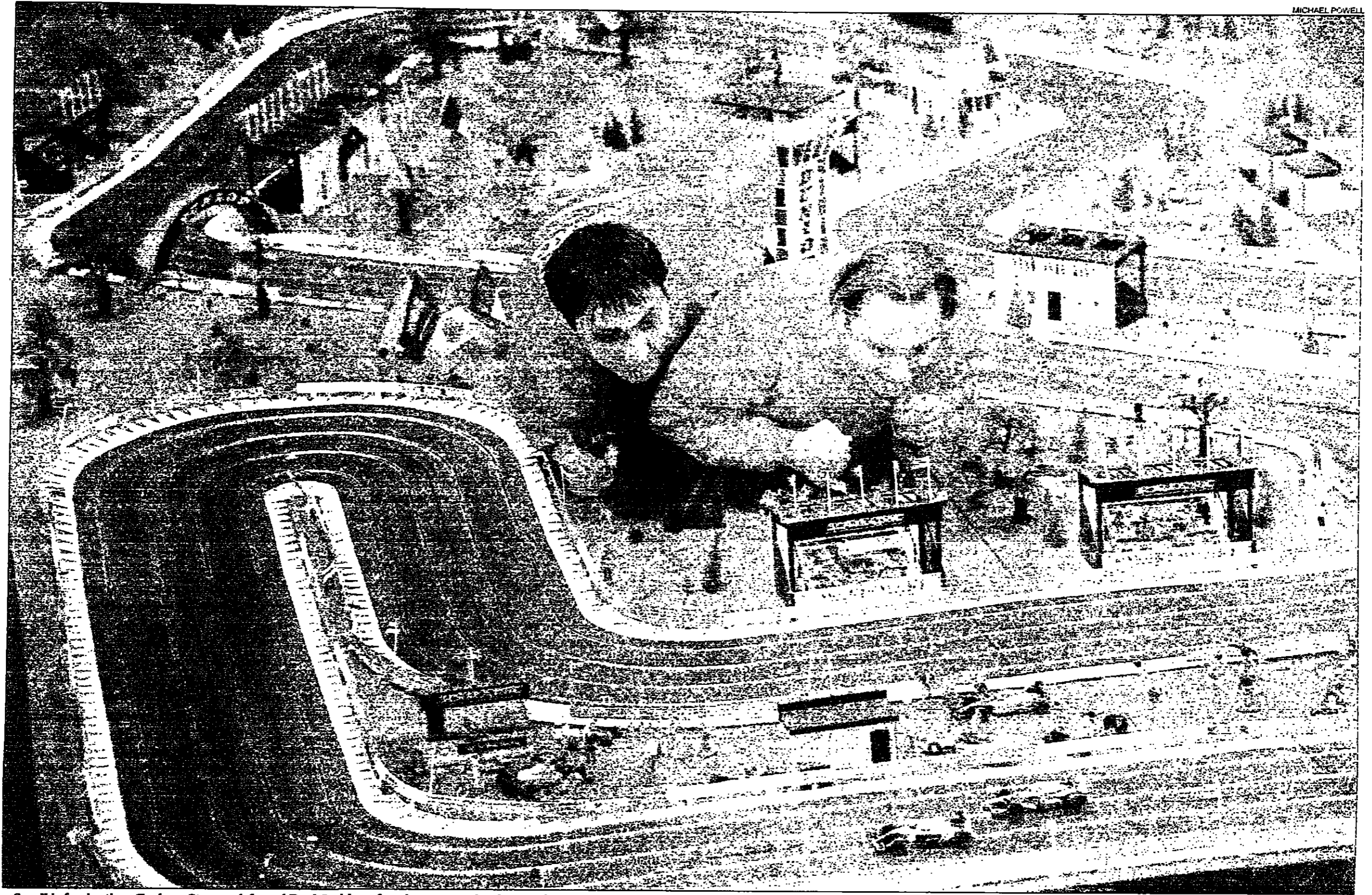


Century of the signs that paint the road to hell

Page 9



SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996



Small is fascinating: Graham Stevens, left, and Paul Smith on four-lane super circuit at Scalextric's Margate headquarters, complete with pits, grandstands, bridges, and loudspeakers playing the screaming engine whine of F1 cars

A different scale of motoring delights

Junior is barely out of nappies when the feverish search through the toy shop starts. The buggy is neatly parked against a stack of shelves with row-on-row of boxes decorated with chequered flags and screaming Formula One cars while the investigation is carried out. At this stage, it is difficult to spot the child. Actually, Junior is the one who cannot even say "car", let alone operate one, while the real child is the taller one rifling through the boxes. Never mind early learning toys and pop-up books, what Junior really needs apparently is a Scalextric... yet he barely gets to lay his dumpty little fist on the controls in case he breaks anything. I confess: I was that man. My son was still learning to walk when his first Scalextric appeared under the Christmas tree, and he had to beat me off for the privilege of unwrapping it. Then he stood by while it was constructed and took it all in his stride when Dad punched the air after thrashing him in a ten-lap sprint. There are boxes of track and cars, from Ford Escort rally cars to Formula One machines, in our garage just waiting for a new circuit to be constructed by an eager father with delusions of being team manager for Renault Williams at Silverstone.

Before their infant sons can even say the word, fathers dash out to buy them their first cars.

Kevin Eason on the enduring joys of Scalextric

But there is no need to send for medical help, for I am not alone. Scalextric is the ultimate toy for boys who never grew up. There cannot be a male under the age of 45 in this country who at some time has not owned one, and even the mention of one of the world's most famous brand names turns eyes misty and leads to confessions that somehow that set bought years ago was never thrown away. Even the countenance of Mike Powell, a hardened professional who took these pictures for *Car 96*, took on a faraway look as he reflected on his Grand Prix Scalextric set, featuring his favourite Jaguar XJ220, that roars around his London flat. Simon Kohler, marketing manager at Hornby Hobbies, which makes Scalextric, listened patiently to the wistful reminiscences of Messrs Powell and Eason and their victories on the small scale track without the least surprise. At the Toy Fair this weekend at London's Olympia, he will meet

dozens of men who were infected at an early age with enthusiasm for the 1:32nd scale cars. "There is a tremendous number of thirtysomethings who had them as children or buy them now for their own children," he says. "We find sets just don't get thrown away. They might end up in the attic or garage, but they are nearly always kept somewhere because affection never seems to wear off. "Scalextric really took off in the Sixties, though, and we find now that the first people who owned it are coming back as fathers and buying sets for their children. Of course, that is a great excuse to play, never mind whether the kids want a Scalextric or not." That is why Renault has joined up with Scalextric to give wannabe Damon Hills and Michael Schumachers the chance to indulge their fantasies and take part in their own world championship. Hundreds of Renault owners are being invited to their local dealers to hurl a scale model Renault

Williams around the familiar rubberised track for glory, and — for the very best — a place in a world final in Trinidad.

Not exactly one of the better known grand prix venues, you might think, but there is a reason for choosing the Caribbean island, apart from the sun and sand. Trinidad is the home of the greatest concentration of Scalextric enthusiasts in the world, where the small scale racing is second only to cricket as a sporting pursuit. Trinidadian children were introduced to the table-top track in much the same way as table tennis was the amusement for a generation in youth clubs here — except that in Britain, we outgrew capucinos, Cliff Richard and paddle bats, while in Trinidad Scalextric stuck, creating an island of addicts.

The addiction started in the days when the cars racing along the electrified steel grooves were copies of F1 machines like Cooper, Ferrari and Lotus and the heroic drivers were Jim Clark, Graham Hill and Mike Hawthorn.

We all have a Mr B. Francis to thank for our addiction. He started a company in 1952 called Minimodels, mak-

Continued overleaf

LIKE THE REAL THING, IT'S DONE WITH COMPUTERS



Jamie Buchanan, designer for lounge motor racing

THE eerie computer shape was a Vauxhall Calibra twisting and turning through a full circle to show each curve and detail of its aerodynamic body.

But when this car leaves the electronic drawing board, it will be small enough to fit inside a jacket pocket. Although Scalextric cars are toys, they are designed with the same attention to detail as the real thing.

In scale, they race around the track at speeds equivalent to 200mph, tear through corners and chicanes and stop on a sixpence. They also have to cope with stresses and strains that real cars do not — such as when Junior loses control and his car tumbles off the track and the dining room table, plunging to the floor. Until recently, the process

was traditional model-making, with drawings translated to patterns, then to clay or wooden models before moulds could be made for plastic prototypes, the factory tooling up and the cars produced, 18 months from concept to completion.

Now Scalextric designs on computer software used by manufacturers of full-size cars, completing the design process in a month. Jamie Buchanan is one of the designers who "draws" cars on computer screen, examining their contours and areas that Scalextric has to strengthen against the rigours of lounge racing.

Scalextric cars tend to sit higher than road cars to deal with banked corners, have wider wheel arches and thicker bumpers to withstand those prangs against the dining table legs.

Forget when it was built. Consider who built it.



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Used Cars

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CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? The Times critics select the best entertainment

Benedict Nightingale

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Read Wilde's play, and you might conclude it is a melodrama with epigrams artificially inserted in the creaker gaps. But Peter Hall's production is a major piece of dramatic reclamation.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Why has a revival of a neatly carpentered thriller written 50 years ago and earnestly preaching socialism won almost every award in London, as well as several in New York? Why bother at all with J.B. Priestley's tale of a respectable family's destruction of an innocent girl?

Clive Davis

JACKY TERRASSON His eponymous Blue Note debut found a place in many of the shortlists as the critics looked back on the outstanding records of 1995. A pockmarked virtuoso of Franco-American origin, he has the potential to become the most versatile and accomplished pianist since the controversial Keith Jarrett.

BARBARA COOK/STEVE ROSS Barbara Cook's waltz through Broadway and Tin Pan Alley history is currently one of London's best kept secrets. Do not miss her final week. Wally Harper's piano arrangements are as sumptuous as a full orchestra's, and Cook's subtle vocals lift even the more obscure numbers firmly into the major league.

OSCAR ROSS: Pizza on the Park. Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273). Mon 29 to Sat 24 Feb. 9.15pm: (Hodge and Morley, 11.15pm).

Rodney Milnes

SAMSON ET DALILA There is a slightly improvised feel to the Royal Opera's new year production, with the management bobbing and weaving through cancelled productions and changes



Humanity and humour: Penny Downie, Dulcie Gray and Anna Carteret star in Peter Hall's timely production of Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband

of cast, but the unplanned revival of Saint-Saëns's grand biblical opera is all gain: Sidney Nolan's sumptuously colourful decor, Elijah Moshinsky's grown-up production and David Bintley's rather 'Softly awakes my heart' - all add up to a thumping good evening out. The Greek mezzo Markella Hatziaristou sings the temptress, José Cura is the prophet, and the expert Jacques Delacôte conducts.

THE MAGIC FLUTE There are few more uplifting experiences than a really good performance of Mozart's fairy-tale morality, and the English National Opera fields a strong team for the latest revival of Nicholas Hytner's fine staging. Alexander Sander's stylish conducting is the perfect springboard for exceptional singing from Janice Watson and Ian Bostridge as the very juvenile leads, Peter Snipp as the birdcatcher and John Connell as - in George Bernard Shaw's words - the voice of God. All this, and you can hear the words too.

DAVID SINCLAIR FRANK BLACK Joining up the musical dots from Nirvana to Green Day, yet still wildly different to both, Frank Black is here to promote The Cult of Ray, his third solo album since the demise of the Poodles. A performer of wit and substance, Black remains one of the perennial heavy hitters of American rock.

Z: Garage, Glasgow (0141-332 1120), Jan 29; Riverside, Newcastle (0191-261 4396), Jan 30; Manchester University (0161-275 2930), Jan 31; Metropolitan University, Leeds (0113-244 2999), Feb 1; Leadmill, Sheffield (0114-275 4500), Feb 3; Junction, Cambridge (01223 412600), Feb 4; Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton (01902 312030), Feb 5; Bristol University (0117-928 9000), Feb 7; Pyramids Centre, Portsmouth (01705 358608), Feb 8; Astoria, London WC2 (0171-434 0403), Feb 9.

MELISSA ETHERIDGE/JOAN OSBORNE In her element singing old Janis Joplin songs at the Woodstock Festival of 1994, Melissa Etheridge has revived the grandstanding style of the traditional female rock 'n' roll star. Lionised for her own songwriting by Bruce Springsteen and Randy Newman, she dishes out big, strong themes and sweeping choruses, splashed with primary emotional colours.

SWAN DANCE 96 A two-month season of seven dance companies opens in High Wycombe with the premiere of Crime Fiction by Arc Dance Company (Fri 2 and Sat 3). Coming in February are Adzido (Wed 7), Aletta Collins (Wed 14), and the black company RJC in Captured (Fri 23) and The Hot Shoe Shuffle (Mon 26 to March 2). Then in March the Royal Ballet Dance Bites tour brings four more premieres (March 18 and 19) and the series climaxes with Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake (March 26-30). Current album, Your Little Secret, has been somewhat eclipsed by a new wave of solo American stars which includes support act

Joan Osborne, who has been nominated for five awards at the forthcoming Grammys. Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Jan 30.

John Percival SPRING COLLECTION A chance to catch up with what is happening in British contemporary dance: the Place Theatre and the South Bank Centre combine to offer no fewer than 25 choreographers across three intensive days.

THE PLACE Theatre, Duke's Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031), Fri 2, 8pm, Sat 3, 1pm, Sun 4, 11am; Purrell Room, Sat 3, 3.30pm, and Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sat 3, 7.45pm, Sun 4, 3pm, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-960 4242).

Resurrection Symphony (Thursday), a programme of Gilbert Amy (a British premiere), Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with Maxim Vengerov as soloist, and The Rite of Spring (Friday). Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Thur Feb 1, Fri 2, 7.30pm (6).

Richard Morrison PARIS DOUBLE The Orchestre de Paris comes to the Barbican in the "Great Orchestras of the World" series, which perhaps flatters its status: over the years it has shown us its good points but also its sloppy side. Let's hope for the former as Semyon Bychkov, its youthful and personable music director, steers it through Mahler's

unmistakably Nyman's own. It usually helps if you have seen whichever of Peter Greenaway's films they originally accompanied. That will probably be the case here: the first British performance of Nyman's Noises Sounds & Sweet Airs. It is an opera based on music for Prospero's Books, Greenaway's free fantasy on Shakespeare's The Tempest. Singers Catherine Bott, Hilary Summers and Christopher Gillet join the concrete-blasting Michael Nyman Band. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Tues, 8pm (6).

Maxim Vengerov, violin, plays Mendelssohn at the Barbican

NYMAN'S BACK Half the musical world denests Michael Nyman's pieces: the other half loves them. They are loud, repetitive, mostly derivative and unsuitable - but they create a sound world that is

Geoff Brown THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15) Has Pedro Almodóvar finally grown up? It seems so: Spain's most exportable director has made a film of muted design and sober feelings, with kinks just around the edges. Heroine Marisa Paredes is enduring a mid-life crisis over her work (she writes romantic trash) and her marriage to a Nato peacekeeper. This could be a recipe for caricature and farce, but Almodóvar treats the heroine's pain with touching seriousness. Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720); Gate (0171-727 4043); Revoir (0171-637 8402); Ritzy (0171-737 2121); Screen on the Hill (0171-435 3366).

HEAT (15) "They're good." Al Pacino's workaholic detective muses, observing the work of Robert De Niro's criminals, who are robbing their way round Los Angeles. And so is the film, nearly three hours long but with few wasted minutes. The stars alone command attention: Pacino like a tightly-coiled spring, De Niro rigorously controlled as the dedicated criminal. Michael Mann builds

Marisa Paredes stars in The Flower of My Secret

Picture (0171-488 3323) MGM: Fullman Road (0171-370 2530) Screen on the Hill (0171-435 3366) Curzon (0171-437 4700) Phoenix (0171-727 6705) Phoenix (0181-865 2238) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Warner (0171-437 4343)

tension, cutting between car and mouse. Mobile camerawork and lightly create a Los Angeles of lonely souls, and several action set-pieces set new standards. Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2530), Trocadero (0171-434 0031), Ritzy (0171-737 2121); Screen on the Hill (0171-435 3323); UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332); Warner (0171-437 4343).

Richard Cork

SUSAN HILLER In a retrospective at the Tate Gallery Liverpool, Hiller reveals the continuity of her interests over the past 20 years. But she means she adopts never ceases to change. In a work called Monument, she brings together the plaques memorialising people who died trying to save relatives or strangers. But the most arresting exhibits employ video with beguiling immediacy. While flames flicker on the wall, a child describes Rembrandt's painting of Deshaizer's Feast. Then attention turns to claims, by television viewers, that apparitions appear on their screens. The flames grow larger, inviting us to discover hallucinations in their writhing forms. Tate Gallery, Albert Dock, Liverpool (0151-709 3223), until March 17.

JANA STERBAK Last year, the Canadian-based Czech artist stirred controversy by exhibiting a dress made of fast-withering slices of flank steak. In a larger show at the Serpentine Gallery, only one exhibit seeks to shock. Called Seduction Couch, it is made of perforated steel and gives anyone rash enough to touch it an electrostatic sting. In a grueling video work called Condition, Sterbak films a man burdened by a wire-mesh object on wheels. He drags the appendage round a deserted airport, and only casts it aside at the end. Maybe we can draw some comfort from this small victory. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London SW7 (0171-723 9072), Feb 25 (6).

John Russell Taylor

PAUL SMITH TRUE BRIT Paul Smith is one of the most successful British designers of menswear, and has been chosen as the subject of the Design Museum's first major exhibition devoted to a single fashion designer. For him true Britishness has more to do with the traditional eccentricity of the British than with sportiness and understated casual elegance. The show includes a collection of videos of Smith's principal fashion shows. Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (0171-403 6933), Mon-Fri, 11.30am-6pm; Sat-Sun, noon-6pm, until April 10.

JOHN DOWNTON Was the Modern British painter John Downton (1906-1991), this touring exhibition could be challenging, an "archaic misfit" or "enigmatic genius"? There is, presumably, no reason why he should not have been both. He believed passionately that art had been on the wrong road ever since the early Renaissance, and set about putting it back on track by writing texts, such as The Death of Art, and by painting modern portraits in his own meticulously finished manner. Occasionally, in his taste for plump young women, he suggests Botero, but in the main he resembles no one, his cool, almost frigid surface containing, if only just, a volcanic force of emotion. Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield (0114-273 4783), Mon-Sat, 10am-9pm; Sun, 2-5pm, until Feb 24.

COMIC CUTS: Backstage at the Leeds Empire in 1981. Times as changing as old-style variety is marketed by new, young pop singers. Jack Shephard's play catches the moment of change. Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammarston, W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm

THE GLASS MENAGERIE: Sam Mendel's radiant production. Zoe Wanamaker and Glenn Close play mother and daughter; Ben Wilson as Tom Conroy. Park Street, SW1 (0171-389 1731) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm

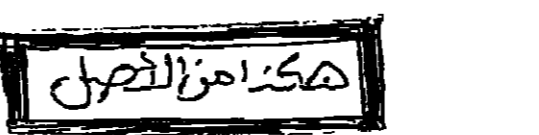
THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe, Malcolm McKee and Steve Bond. WC2 (0171-638 8887), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the new annual reprint of the National Theatre production. Last amazing stage effects here but still delightful. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-626 8855), Mon-Fri, 8pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm (6)

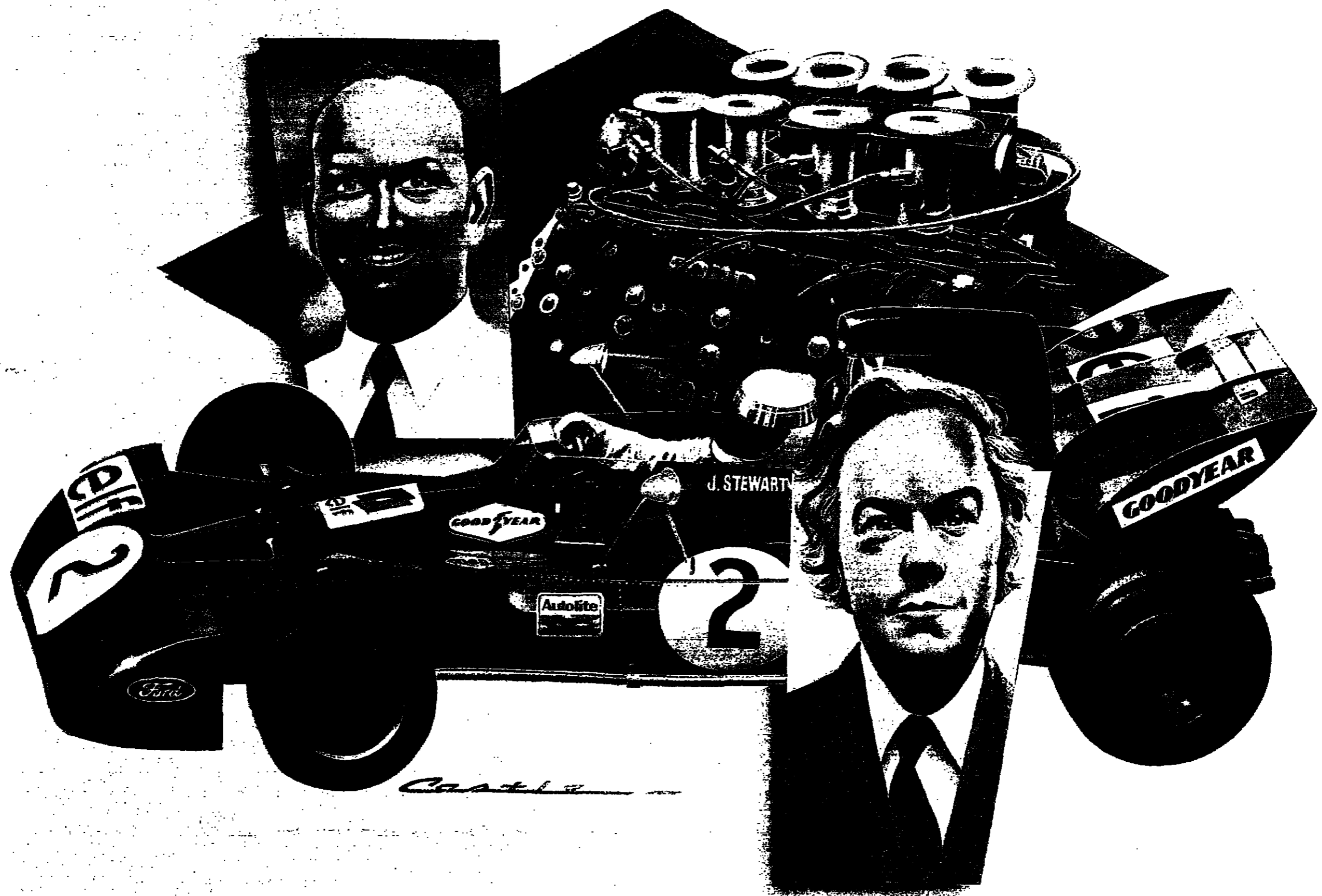
THE MOST DESIRED MAN (18) Broad, mostly pleasant German comedy about sexual identity. Director, Sönke Wortmann. MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5200) Pictured (0171-437 3361) Swales Court Road (0171-638 0148)

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15): Love and hatred amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence. Pasty Ripley (0171-732 2121)

THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD (PG): A boy Indian figure comes alive. Revisited and reworked version of Lynne Reid Baker's children's stories, directed by Frank Oz. MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5200) Swales Court Road (0171-638 0148) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)



Lord Montagu of Beaulieu salutes the achievements of Keith Duckworth, whose British-made was best



Power brokers: Mike Costin, left, and Keith Duckworth with their record-breaking DFV engine, which powered Jackie Stewart to the World Drivers' and Constructors' Championship in 1971. Illustration by Philip Castle

Cosworth Engineering of Northampton build racing engines, including the most successful design in grand prix racing history. Between 1967 and 1985 their DFV to DFV series of 3-litre V8s won no fewer than 155 World Championship-qualifying grands prix and powered a dozen Drivers' World Championship winners.

The company was founded in 1958 by two young engineers, Mike Costin and Keith Duckworth. The name combination does not reflect the manner in which Duckworth would play the primary role, but the alternative — Duckin Engineering — was hardly acceptable.

David Keith Duckworth, born in Lancashire in 1933, was educated at Giggleswick School in Yorkshire and Imperial College, London. Graham Robson, in his definitive history of Cosworth Engineering, *The Search for Power*, summed him up as "engineering design genius, workaholic, frustrated helicopter pilot, successful businessman, multi-thinking, super-confident, deep-thinking, forthright, stubborn, often combative, dismissive of fools, gregarious in company but dangerous in argument". In 1952, after National Service

Engineered to perfection

with the RAF, he went to Imperial College. He became interested in motor sport and ordered a Lotus Six kit car from Colin Chapman's embryo company. Due to illness, what should have been a three-year university course occupied four, but he built and briefly raced the Lotus Six and met Mike Costin, the de Havilland Aircraft engineer who then became Chapman's technical director at Lotus.

Graduation triggered a job hunt. Rolls-Royce's interviewers spotted the 24-year-old's "unsuitability to work as part of a team". He fancied the extraordinary engine projects being tackled by Napier, but then he heard that Graham Hill was leaving his Lotus job to try his luck as a professional racing driver. When Chapman offered a post as Lotus's gearbox development engineer, the graduate accepted.

"The Lotus Querbox" has passed into history as a frail and unreliable device. Lotus parsimony prevented Duckworth making it reliable, and

after ten months he was ready to leave. He and Costin recognised their complementary talents; both were interested in "messing about with racing cars and engines". They discussed a joint venture, but Chapman tied Costin to Lotus on a three-year contract which Mike could not refuse.

So Keith went out on his own with Costin initially as a part-time partner — Cosworth Engineering Ltd, being incorporated on September 30 1958. He worked at first in Shaftesbury Mews, Kensington, but a move quickly followed to Friern Barnet, North London, Duckworth having bought a second-hand engine test bed which he installed without benefit of planning permission.

A new class of single-seater racing — Formula Junior — gained international recognition in 1959. It demanded production-based engines of no more than 1100cc with limited modification. Through a friend, Duckworth heard of Ford's

forthcoming new 105E engine for the Anglia, which sounded ideal for Junior racing. His prototype Cosworth-Ford FJ unit then made its race debut on Boxing Day, 1959, and at Easter Monday Goodwood 1960, it won its first race, in a new Lotus 18 driven by a young Scot called Jim Clark.

Formula Junior success piled upon success, and the 105E-based Cosworth-Ford engines proved to be the class of the field. Ford of Dagenham approved... intensely. Larger premises ex-Lotus were found in Edmonton. Duckworth's attention to gas-flow and camshaft profiles perfected the new Lotus-Ford Twin-Cam 4-cylinder engine which made the Lotus-Cortina saloon a race and rally winner.

Upon completion of his Lotus contract, Costin joined in full-time. Two new 1-litre racing classes were due for 1964 — Formula Two permitting heavily modified produc-

tion-based engines and Formula Three allowing only minor tuning. Duckworth took the successful Ford 105E bottom end and created a new cylinder head to form the Cosworth SCA — Single-Cam Series A — F2 engine.

By 1964, a greenfield site was acquired in Northampton which Cosworth Engineering still occupies. New racing Formulae demanded new power units, and Duckworth and his specialist team provided them. When Formula One grew from 1½ to three litres from 1966, Chapman asked Duckworth if he felt capable of creating a new F1 engine. The answer was characteristically positive, and Chapman secured funding from Ford. A new 1600cc Formula Two class was launched in 1967, for which, with Ford backing, Duckworth developed his Four-Valve Series A Cosworth FVA twin-cam engine. The 3-litre Formula One Cosworth-Ford engine followed on for Lotus as the

Double-Four-Valve or DFV V8. In the 1967 Dutch Grand Prix, Clark won in his Cosworth DFV-powered Lotus 49.

As Cosworth Engineering's activities diversified, so its engineering, design and development staff had to grow — selected, vetted, directed and "kept honest" by Duckworth's crisp rectitude. A driving principle was that borrowing money is inherently immoral. "Duckworthisms" became engineering lore. "It is better to be uninformed than ill-informed... A genius can make, for a penny, what a good engineer can only make for 10p... Development is only necessary to rectify the ignorance of designers... It's better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool than to open your mouth and prove it."

Diversions included a never-raced prototype four-wheel drive Formula One car in 1969 and a 750cc twin-cylinder motor-cycle engine for Norton in the 1970s. Then General Motors came to Cosworth, commis-

sioning specialist performance engine work for Chevrolet, Vauxhall and Opel, followed by Mercedes-Benz and other giants. The Chevrolet Cosworth Vega, Ford Escort RS1600, 1700 and 1800, the Sierra RS Cosworth range and 16-valve Mercedes-Benz 190s all emerged with Cosworth technology.

Such immense success was not without cost. Duckworth had suffered a heart attack in 1973 and towards the 1980s he worried for his company's future. He could not contemplate it falling into unsuitable hands should death duties force his family to sell, so he looked for a suitable buyer. He found United Engineering Industries, who took over Cosworth Engineering in 1980.

His first marriage ended in divorce and his heart condition worsened, requiring bypass surgery. In 1988, he retired from the chairmanship of Cosworth Engineering, remarried and remains today the most respected surviving engineer of the British class of the 1960s and 1970s. His genius and "straight-as-a-gunbarrel" example took motor sport by the scruff of the neck. "British is Best" had too often been an empty boast; Duckworth gave it genuine substance.

Helen Mound on a Harlequin that makes people laugh

Red and yellow and pink and green...

Be prepared to be the butt of a thousand jokes when you drive around in Volkswagen's new Polo Harlequin — so named because its body panels are like the classic multi-coloured costume of clown's clown lover.

"Put a few dents in your new car then?" smiles the man behind the cash-point queue. "You know you can get replacement panels in matching colours." Brave Harlequin drivers will have to grin and bear it.

It seems everyone is affected somehow by the brightly coloured supermini. Schoolkids laugh at it, traffic stops for it,

lot, and put their hands over their eyes expressing either dazzlement or disgust. Everyone either loves or loathes this car.

But Volkswagen claims there is no shortage of admirers for the Harlequin; it was customer demand that secured its launch. When the new Polo was introduced last year in Germany, the company built a special model with all the different colours that customers could have, a kind of three-dimensional colour-Swatch. Almost immediately, German motorists began ordering the car in multi-colours, so Volkswagen launched the Harlequin, in

fers grey and silver, rather than red, as its most popular colour. However, love it they do, and now it's going to be launched over here.

Volkswagen has not decided exactly when the Harlequin will go on sale in the UK ("sometime in the spring"), or how much it will cost ("around £10,000-£11,000"), but it will be based on the £9,645, 5-door, 1.4-litre CL Polo. Perhaps the company is waiting for the rush of customer demand it saw in Germany last year when the special models were displayed in dealerships; whether that will happen is a matter of debate.

A quick survey of friends and colleagues revealed that I



Shades of attraction: Germans — who normally favour dull colours for their cars — fell in love with the Harlequin

old bangers already on the road with mis-matched panels," laughed Stuart. "It looks like a glamorous ringer."

He has a point; in a few years' time, when it has lost its originality and the N-reg plate is looking dated, the Harlequin may well resemble a car that someone knocked together from a heap of scrapped Polos.

Ann concedes it is "the only car I've ever seen that looks colourful on a miserable January day". And Ian admits that he had "never looked at a Polo for so long. It's a great marketing gimmick. People just can't take their eyes off it." Natania Fraser is definitely not interested in the gaudy little hatchback, but, of course, most teenagers insist on everything being black. So, who is going to buy a car like this? Well it was hard, but I found a Harlequin fan, and once I'd identified her, I found dozens like her. My mum wants one, my best friend's mum wants one, my neighbour's mum

CAR 96

Transatlantic rower Chay Blyth tells Andrew Pierce why he has so many points on his licence



Chay Blyth and his Rover 800: he was last caught for speeding at 112mph — but he once knew how many people were on the front of the Highway Code

Chay Blyth, a former British paratrooper sergeant, solo circumnavigator under sail, and adventurer, long ago hung up his sailing boots. Today he is the architect of the 30,000-mile BT Global Challenge when 14 steel yachts set sail round the globe.

At high speed on dry land

The race, which starts in September, will revive memories of the summer of 1966 when two British soldiers left Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to row across the Atlantic in a 20-foot dory.

After 92 days of deprivation, discomfort and danger on the high seas, Blyth became a national hero. The day before they landed in Ireland, he wrote in his diary: "It's all over. I am not getting in a boat again for anyone."

But, of course, he did. Now, 30 years later, other seafarers are paying Blyth thousands of pounds for the chance to try to emulate his feat.

How did you first learn to drive?

With the Army using a Land Rover. I was amazed to be asked: how many people are on the front of the Highway Code? It was an army test. They would ask the most peculiar thing. I got it right. I think there were seven.

What was your first car?

A Mini van. It was all I could afford. It

cost me about £400. After I rowed across the Atlantic I found I had a bit of money, so I went upmarket and bought a Morris Oxford.

What car do you drive now and why?

Rover 800 series coupé. I love the sporty lines. It is a superb car.

Do you like driving?

Yes. Which is just as well. I live in Liskeard in Cornwall and most of the business is in London. It means I drive 40,000 to 50,000 miles a year. Speeding becomes a problem.

What is your most hated car?

Those ridiculous 2CVs.

What is your dream car?

An immaculate MKII 3.8 Jaguar in British Racing Green or white.

Christmas lunch at the barracks. I was on my way back home. A soldier was crossing the road in front of me. I was stone cold sober as I was driving to Scotland. I blew my horn. Three of them carried on walking, but one stood with his legs apart, hands on his hips, gesticulated rudely and dared me to drive on. I did. He went to hospital.

STEERING COLUMN

What is your worst habit in the car?

Speeding. I am forever getting booked. I am doing all right at the moment. Some points have dropped off. I think I have got eight at the moment.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they hog the fast lane on motorways and refuse to pull over. Also, I am a keen horse rider and spend weekends winding down country lanes with my wife, Felicity, on our horses. I get very cross when motorists do not show any consideration.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

Run a chap down by design. He was very happy. We had just finished our

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Continually. I have been banned four times. Guess why? Speeding. The last time they clocked me doing 112mph.

What do you listen to in the car?

Disco-style light pop music, mostly 1960s and 1970s stuff.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Tax caravans and cyclists. I don't like either of them. When you live in the West Country, caravans are a menace with the traffic queues they can cause.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The one with the car which went through the Tunnel of Love.

John Samuel looks at Hyundai's Lantra and its ambitions

Any medium-sized estate car for under £12,000 deserves a second look, and the curvy Hyundai Lantra, marketed with a retrospect to Marilyn Monroe and Sophia Loren, is bound to turn more heads.

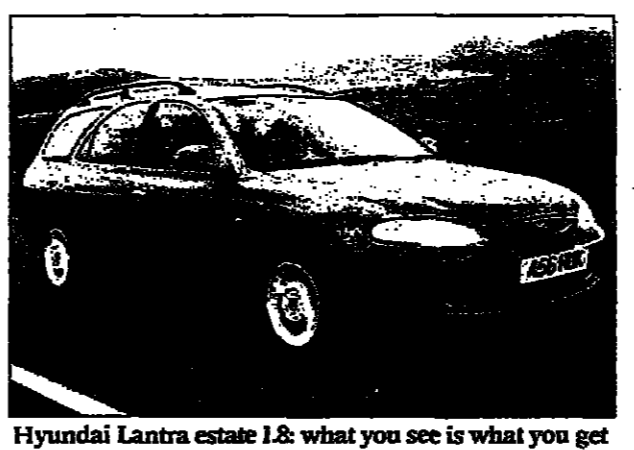
Is this a good top ten Korea move?

In automobile terms, what you see is what you get. The 1.6GLSi at £11,999 and 1.8CD at £14,249 are around 10 per cent less than most rivals. Where Daewoo has majored on presentation, Hyundai has concentrated on product, achieving a 52 per cent increase over the last two years with a spread of vehicles, albeit with a significant gap.

The Lantra saloon, launched in the autumn is going well, and a coupé at less than £10,000 is due soon. But, given Hyundai's top-ten ambitions, why no hatchback, a style much beloved of the British and French, if not the Germans? The answer, according to export director J.H. Kim, is in its worldwide strategy.

It is perhaps salutary for Europe that Brussels perspectives are not everything. "Here we are breaking into a two-car-family market. The same with America. But China has a 1.2 billion people and a one-car-a-1000 market. Indonesia 190 million, Vietnam 90 million, China has a 30 per cent growth rate. Parts of Latin America, too." The Koreans are at pains to point out their differences to Japan. It is not a consensus society. Strikes are not unknown and rising expectations in its workforce puts pressure on labour costs. But they do, for the time being, have an

advantage in well-made, well-specified, original products at a lower price. Hyundai's progress has been remarkable since its first exports to Ecuador 19 years ago. At concept level there are driverless and hydrogen-fuelled cars; also a hybrid with electrical propulsion boosted by a small combustion engine for serious long-distance driving. Its sporty HCD III leaves the 1976 Pony — its first production car — snoring in a Victorian stable block. Home plants at Ulsan, Chungju and Asan are said to be capable of up to four million vehicles by 2000. Existing production facilities in Zimbabwe, Egypt, Thailand and the Philippines by then could be augmented by others in China, Latin America and Europe.



Hyundai Lantra estate 1.8: what you see is what you get

How much of the targeting is rhetoric? In Britain the Lex Group is energetically pursuing its majority franchise acquired from the IM Group. Igman Walker, has pushed hard — so far without success — for a five-door Lantra on the basis that there must be flexibility for given markets.

Europe and North America each took around 80,000 of the 1994 production and "others" 107,000. Targets for the millennium are 148,000 Europe, 150,000 American and 200,000 others. Koreans do not share Japanese precision with marketing targets or loss of face if they are not achieved. "They are an ideal," said a Lex insider. "If you don't make them, too bad, but you've tried."

Prices: £11,999 and £14,249. Engines: 112bhp i.6, 126bhp 1.8; 5-speed manual or 4-speed auto transmissions. Performance: Top speeds, 117mph (1.6), 120mph (1.8). Extras: On 1.6, alarm, remote locking, anti-lock brakes. Insurance Group: 1.6, group 8; 1.8, group 11.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

BENTLEY TURBO R. 1993 3.0i, £32,000. BENTLEY TURBO R. 90 Eddon, FRASH, met grey, cream 10hr seats, mahogany inl. woodwork, carpet, power tables, badge car. 29,000 miles. Exc cond. Offers over £70,000. TEL: 0171 4092894 (S. Currie) or 01256 762688

SILVER SPIRIT II. 1990 G. 2-door, 1000cc, 1000cc, 1000cc, 1000cc. 01270 884143 (even) 01782 202140 (days)

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY AUTHORISED DEALERS. H.R. OWEN. 841 North, Central, R. Royal, 1000cc, 1000cc, 1000cc, 1000cc. 0171 590 5900 Sunday 0836 284929

Lancaster City. 1991 Bentley Continental R. 1991 Bentley Turbo R. 1991 Bentley Continental R. 1991 Bentley Turbo R. 0113 276 5522 Sunday 0931 480011

Lancaster. Flexible lease purchase offer for business users. 1991 Bentley Continental R. 1991 Bentley Turbo R. 0113 276 5522 Sunday 0931 480011

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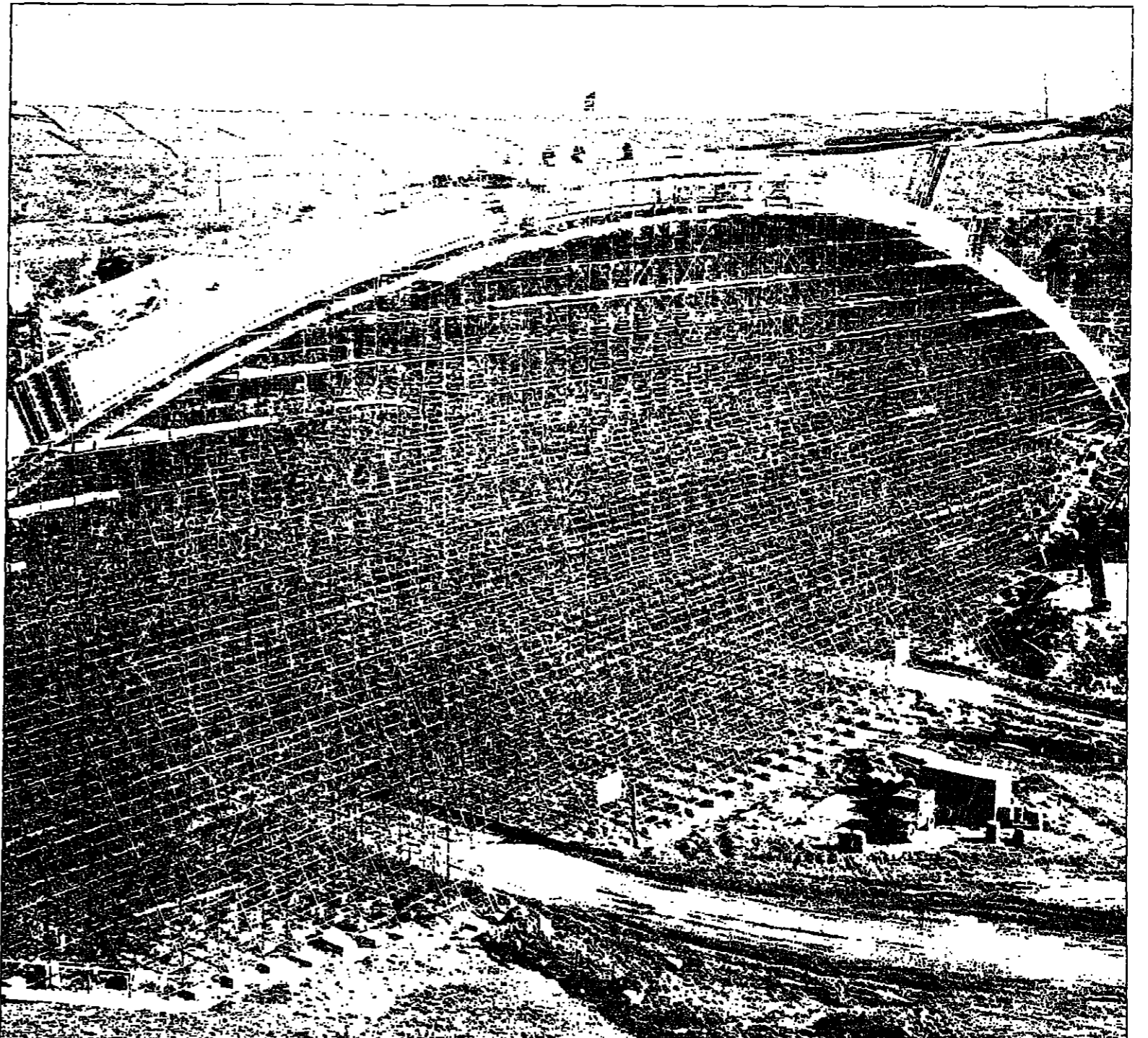
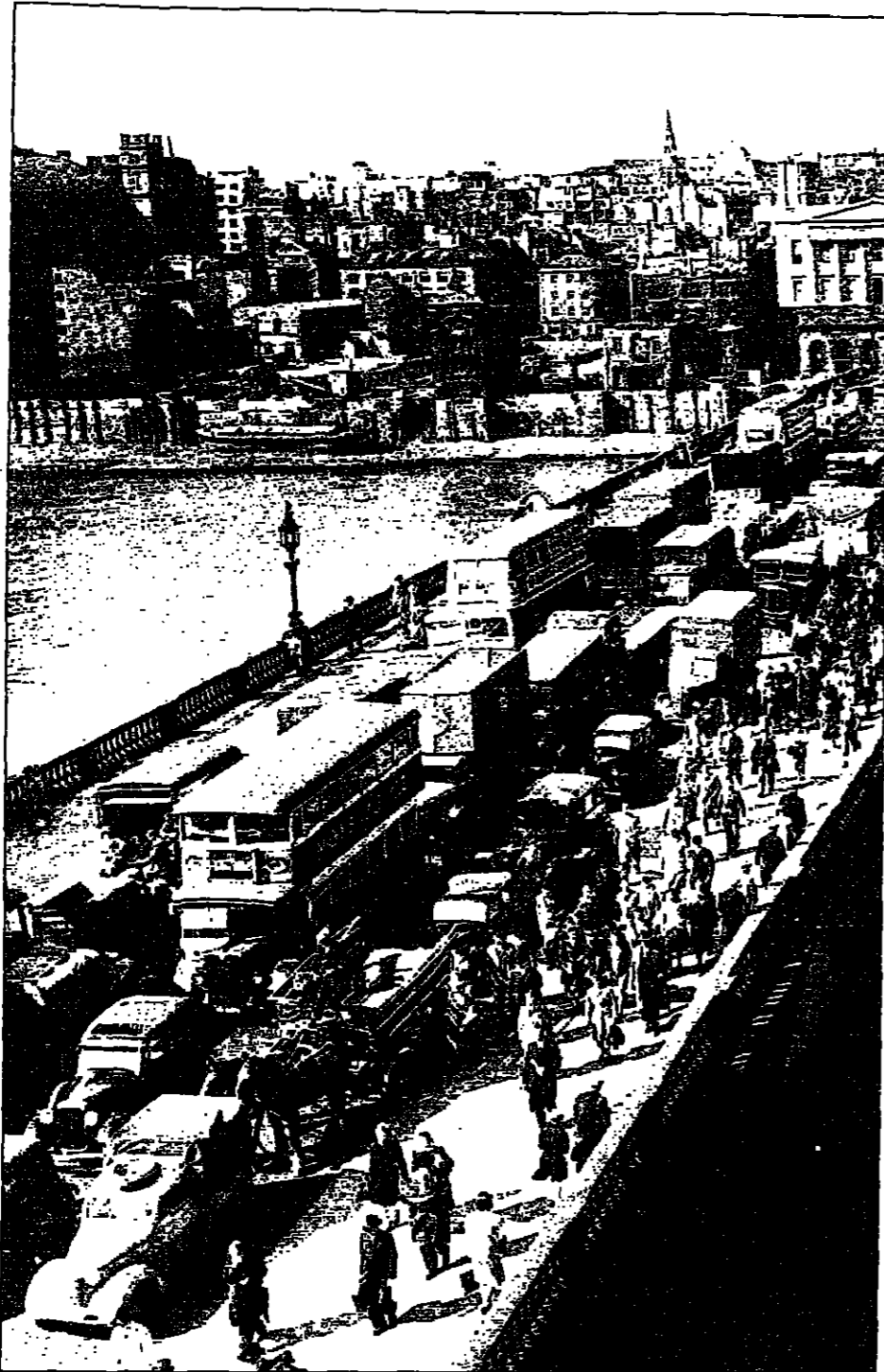
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New lan... paintbrush... that keeps... people alive

Vaughan Freeman looks back over a century during which the revolution of the internal combustion engine has totally altered the face of Britain

New landscape, a portrait in motor oil



From walking pace to high-speed motoring: London Bridge clogged with traffic in 1947 and the gigantic steel scaffolding "harp" that supported the concrete span to carry to A6025 from Halifax to Oldham across the M62 under construction in 1969

In 100 years, the car turned a nation of erratically planned and poorly maintained tracks into one throughout which bitumen, road signs and street lighting are the everyday backdrop to our lives.

The demand of the motorist for roads wide enough for unimpeded progress, capable of handling ever faster cars and for surfaces friendly to easily punctured tyres has dictated probably the greatest change in our road network since the Romans.

Roads improved vastly in the early 1800s with the advent of the mail coach and the work of engineers such as John Metcalf, Thomas Telford and John McAdam, but conditions deteriorated again later in the century as people and freight switched to the railways and roads were ignored. That changed again when, in November 1896, the Locomotives on Highways Act was repealed and the speed limit raised from 4mph to 12mph and again to 20mph under the 1903 Motor Car Act. The 20mph limit remained in force until 1930 but was widely ignored.

Even at 20mph, cars created a major environmental problem — dust. Great plumes were thrown up as cars raced and bumped over what were little more than exaggerated cart tracks. As city fathers peered through the gloom and pedestrians

coughed their way to the shops, authorities decided something must be done and called for water sprays to damp down the dust; there was even a suggestion to pipe seawater from Brighton to London to spray the capital's streets.

A more sensible idea was at hand though: tar. Used experimentally in the 1850s, thousands of miles of Britain was soon covered in the stuff. Roads sealed with tar were smoother, lacked mud and tyre-spilling stones and enabled cars to go yet faster. Bitumen, a product of refined crude oil, increasingly took over from tar during the 1920s.

As speeds increased so too did the need for signs warning of dangers ahead. Ad-hoc early signs, many set up by the Cyclist Touring Club, included boards showing the skull and crossbones on the steepest hills and blindest corners.

Uniformity began with the 1903 Motor Car Act, which made provision for local authorities to put up warning signs for crossroads, steep hills and dangerous corners. A hollow red triangle indicated a warning, and a solid red disc a prohibition, the basis of today's signs. The first speed limit signs, for 10mph, featured a hollow white ring above a plate giving the limit in figures.

Slowing cars down was one thing, stopping them another. Traffic lights

appeared around 30 years before the car when, in 1868, the first set was installed to help MPs cross Bridge Street to and from the Houses of Parliament. The red and green lights were lit by gas and changed by hand by a policeman, but exploded soon after they went into operation. Traffic lights were reborn in their familiar green, amber and red form in 1918 in Piccadilly, though still manually operated by police, and, in 1927, the first automatic traffic lights lit up Wolverhampton and Leeds.

The sometimes baffling array of red, white and yellow paintwork adorning modern roads began with the white lines painted down the centre, which began to proliferate after the First World War. They spread rapidly throughout the 1920s and white lines were also used as stop lines at road junctions. Double white lines prohibiting overtaking were introduced in 1957.

Although the car flourished, pedestrians were finding it increasingly difficult to cross the road. In 1934, Leslie Hore-Belisha, the Minister of Transport, authorised the installation of pedestrian crossings marked with white or yellow "herring bone" lines together with the first pole-mounted amber globes — Belisha Beacons — which were tried out in London's Kensington Road. The crossings became black and white

from 1947 and the beacons started flashing in 1954. The white zig-zag markings either side of a pedestrian crossing were introduced from 1971.

The dreaded yellow no-parking lines first appeared in 1956 in Slough, which sprouted a single yellow no-parking line, and double yellow no-loading lines. The first parking meters also arrived in the late 1950s to decorate town and city centres.

Although motorways were proposed in 1906, and the first opened in New York in 1914, Britain's first, the M1, was not opened until November, 1959. Ernest Marples, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, when it was built there were 8.5 million vehicles in Britain: now there are closer to 25 million.

The first motorways were without a speed limit or signs thanks to the touchingly naive faith that traffic would suffer no hold-ups or delays. A number of accidents in the mid-1960s in fog, with high speeds a contributing factor, changed that view. Message boards were set up and in 1967 the 70mph limit was made permanent on unrestricted roads.

If safety was the key to road design in the 1960s, it became an even more crucial shaping element in the way our roads were built through the

1980s and 1990s. The first road-hump legislation was introduced in 1983, the Gatso speed camera in 1992, and traffic calming measures such as chicanes and gateways on urban roads in 1993.

Yet some things remain the same. A hundred years ago this month, Walter Arnold of East Peckham, Kent, became the first motorist to be convicted of speeding when he was caught driving at 8mph in a 2mph area. The same year saw the first in a sad tale of road deaths when Bridget Driscoll of Croydon was run over and killed by Arthur Edsell's Roger-Benz at Crystal Palace. It is thought that Mrs Driscoll froze, panic-stricken, at the strange sight of the car as it bore down on her at 4mph.

In 1900, A.J. Balfour MP took delivery of a De Dion Voiturette and, impressed, told the Commons he "looked forward to new methods of travelling" and believed that "great highways for motor traffic might be constructed".

The highways arrived, but whether they represent progress can be measured by the fact that, although the speed limit was raised to 30mph in 1903, 20mph zones were reintroduced in 1991 to cut urban accidents and deaths, especially among children, while the 1996 limit of 12mph is about the average speed for a vehicle travelling in London in 1996.

DR DASHBOARD

On the trail to Gunfight at the OK Corral

Q This morning an impatient young woman tore down the outside lane at the lights then turned left across the traffic while the lights were on red. I followed her, flashing my lights and blowing my horn, but she refused to take any notice. People like that should be taken off the road, shouldn't they?

A Put down that pen of vitriol and go look in the mirror. Your blood pressure has probably gone ballistic because you have worked yourself into a state. What is the point?

Q What's the point? Behaviour like that is disgraceful and should be stamped on. Why condone that sort of driving?

A I don't. But two wrongs don't make a right. She was wrong — and more than likely knows it — but chasing her down the road like some inner-city imitation of Wolf and the Road Runner is not the way to solve the problem. What if she had stopped?

Q I would have remonstrated with her most severely and told her to clean up her road manners in no uncertain terms.

A So you would have stamped your feet and shouted and stabbed her in the chest with your index finger. Ever heard of road rage?

Q Don't patronise me. I was angry for a good reason. I do not lose my temper on the road the way other selfish and uncouth people do.

A Yes, I can see that. Actually, you are a textbook case we doctors would refer to when warning patients about the dangers of road rage, which threatens to take over from flu as this year's epidemic.

A Is that so? According to the Lex Report on Motoring this week, there were 1.8 million incidents when drivers were forced to pull over during last year and 800,000 instances of motorists being threatened. Half a million had their cars driven into and 250,000 were attacked by another driver.

Q Gosh, I had no idea things were that bad? But what I did has no bearing on statistics which relate to people swapping punches and hitting each other's cars.

A Doesn't it? The fact that you reacted so angrily makes you a leading contender for a buff on the hooper. One driver does something stupid and the other decides to exact revenge. Tempers rise and before you know it, you are a leading player in a rerun of the Gunfight at the OK Corral.

Q But you have to be angry with drivers like that stupid woman. It is only natural, isn't it?

A Maybe, but you have to curb your temper. If the rest of Britain wants to have a heart attack at the wheel, tell yourself that is fine so long as you are not involved. Besides, the driver you take on might turn out to be a 6ft 6ins, 18-stone tuffly player... and broken bones really hurt. I know, I am a doctor.

Q But I can't help losing my temper. What can I do when I see things that are blatantly wrong?

A Seems obvious, but just relax. Tell yourself nothing matters that much. If you are cut up or someone "tailgates" the back of your car, take some deep breaths, swallow your masculine pride and get out

A paintbrush that keeps people alive

Simple white chevrons save £1.6m and slash accident rates on the M1

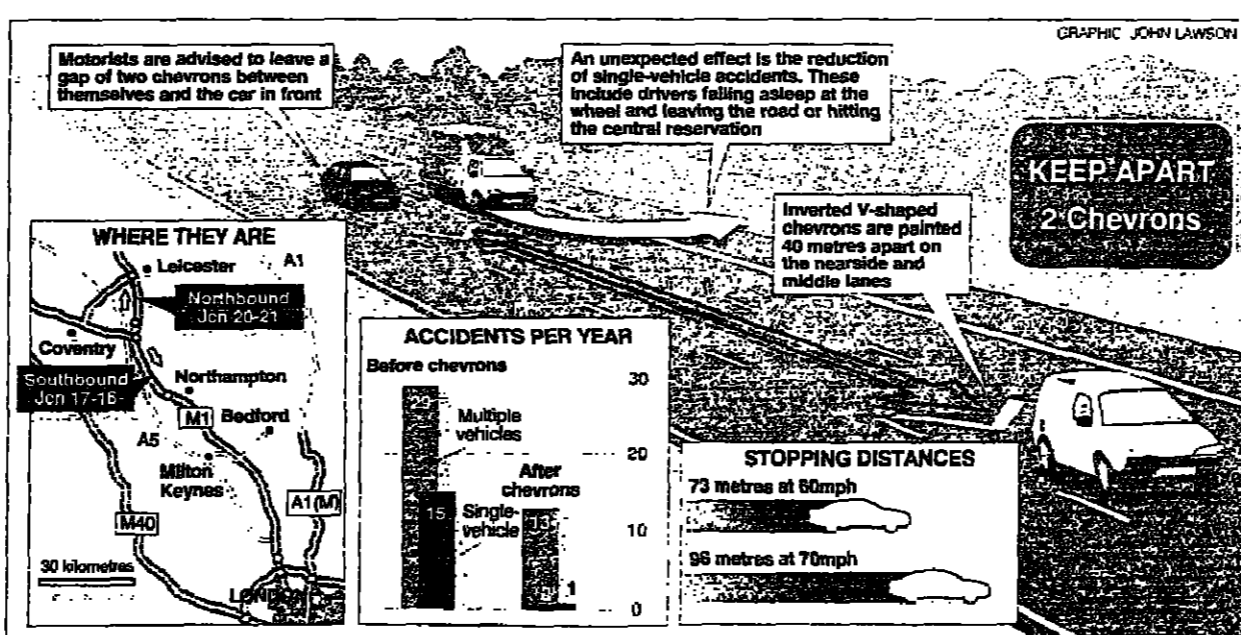
A pot of white paint has helped to cut death and injury accidents by more than half on two of the busiest stretches of the M1, writes Vaughan Freeman.

In probably the most cost-effective safety initiative ever, the Highways Agency simply painted hundreds of white chevron shapes, familiar to anyone who has motored the autoroutes of France, at 40-metre intervals on two sections of the motorway, one where it passes through Northamptonshire and the other passing through Leicestershire.

The inverted V-shaped chevrons were introduced in 1993, painted on the nearside and centre lanes of motorway, and

have not only eased traffic congestion and speeded traffic flow but, more significantly, have reduced multi-vehicle and rear-end collisions by more than 50 per cent. The researchers also found, much to their surprise, that the incidence of single-vehicle accidents, in which a car or truck left the road to hit the central reservation or cross the hard shoulder as the driver fell asleep or lost concentration, also dropped. The theory here is that the chevron-counting driver, busily ensuring he or she is the advised two chevrons apart, has something to keep the brain busy and so stays more alert.

A TRL research document,



were not designed directly to affect single-vehicle accidents and any reduction should be regarded as a bonus.

It would be optimistic to suggest the chevrons virtually eliminate single-vehicle accidents, but the results suggest that such accidents are considerably reduced by the chevrons. The markings probably act as an alerting device in an

Even after the chevrons have petered out, the reduction in accidents continues for about 11 miles after the last one painted on the road surface. The TRL calculates that in the Northamptonshire stretch of the M1, 30 accidents have been prevented, at a saving to the emergency services and ultimately to the taxpayer, of £1.6 million, not to mention the

life-savers on thousands of miles of motorway around the rest of the country, but the authorities are wary about simply slapping paint on roads without knowing the full effects of the trials.

The worry is that part of the effectiveness of the chevrons is due to the fact that they are an unfamil-

A Highways Agency spokesperson says: "Results have so far been very, very positive and, certainly initially, the indications are that it has been highly successful in reducing accidents. Certainly we want to look at introducing it on other parts of the network."

"We would not, however, want to put them everywhere as there is the danger that they

Touring champions put John on the fast track to fame

If John Bintcliffe feels pangs between his shoulder blades at night, it's probably because most of Britain's racing drivers are sticking pins into offices of him.

For this impish 29-year-old has grabbed one of the most coveted seats of the 1996 season: a factory drive with Audi, the world touring car champions, in this year's British Touring Car Championship. His team-mate will be the German world champion Frank Biela.

Bintcliffe, however, remains undaunted by his high-octane leap from obscurity:

"I'm just waiting to get on with doing the driving. The impact won't hit me until I pull out of the pit road at Donington Park for qualifying."

That will happen on the weekend of April 8, when the touring car circus starts its 13-round, 26-race championship at the Derbyshire circuit. Bintcliffe's abilities will then come under the scrutiny of up to 90,000 spectators and three million BBC Grandstand viewers.

Bintcliffe has endured poverty to achieve success. A panel beater's earnings couldn't fund the traditional racing driver's apprenticeship of karting and tuition at racing schools: he was 25 before he had saved enough to get on a starting grid, in a Honda CRX coupe at Silverstone in 1992.

"I didn't know what I was doing. I didn't walk round the circuit before practice, and all I knew of the corners was their shape on the map. I did some stupid do-or-die manoeuvres and spun off. I just wanted to win from the word go."

For 1993 Bintcliffe pulled together £22,000 to fund a car for the national Renault Clio championship. "I rolled the car trying to set the fastest time in the first official test session of the year," he says. "I

felt all my money going 'shwish!'. He escaped with a £4,000 bill for crash repairs, but caused a further £4,500 of damage in the third race of the year by over-revving his engine. 'After that I was skint - my budget had been wiped out.'

Inspiration came from his father, Barry, who was in hospital suffering from the cancer that was soon to take his life. "I told my dad that I thought I could make it as a racing driver and he said 'If you really think so, just go for it.'"

To finance a new season, Bintcliffe sold his possessions, rented out his house and moved into his grandfather's bungalow.

The low point of this marginal existence came when he was forced to sell his prized TAG Heuer sportsman's watch for £280 to buy a pair of tyres. But his persistence paid off: he won the 1994 Eli Renault Clio UK Cup and followed this with victory in the Ford Credit Fiesta Championship last year.

He got the Audi job after meeting Richard Lloyd, a former touring car coordinator, at an endurance race at Snetterton.

Bintcliffe's new job will not be easy. Audi are unique in the BTCC in using four-wheel-drive against front-wheel-drive opposition from Vauxhall, Renault, Ford, Volvo, Honda and Peugeot, and BMW's rear-drive cars. Audi's A4 will therefore have to lug a 65kg weight penalty.

But Bintcliffe points out: "A quick front-wheel-drive car is the hardest thing to drive. All the power, braking and steering inputs are going through the same axle. It makes the cars tend to spin. Four-wheel-drive should let you get away with a lot more."

Mike Nicks on a big break



Bintcliffe: "I'll just get on with the driving"

Alan Copps finds Chrysler Jeep's latest model in the four-wheel-drive market a serious Range Rover rival

Along with Barbours and green wellies, the big four-wheel-drive has entered our national mythology. Loved by middle-class children to whom it offers a grandstand seat on the school run, the mothers who drive them for that purpose are demonised by commuters everywhere.

If your object is to get from home to office by car in the minimum of time exploiting every centimetre of road space, then the back end of a Range Rover, Frontera, Shogun or Jeep Cherokee might as well be the back end of an articulated lorry: it's difficult to see past and frequently impossible to squeeze past.

Then there are the constant jibes aimed at those younger trendies who buy "fun" off-roaders and never venture away from a tarmac surface just in case they get them dirty. It is estimated that only 30 per cent of 4WD vehicles sold ever get to travel off the road, but still the market in Britain grew by more than 11 per cent last year.

That makes Richard Mackay a happy man. He is managing director of Chrysler Jeep in the UK, whose Cherokee in various guises has been one of the main beneficiaries from the growth in the market. "Think how happy other makers would be if the market overall grew by that amount. In fact, it grew by just 1.8 per cent," he says.

Since resuming sales in Britain three years ago, Chrysler Jeep has sold nearly 15,000 Cherokees, twice the number it predicted, and this week it launched the Austrian-built, 4-litre, all-singing, all-dancing (literally) Grand Cherokee. Bigger, better equipped and better-looking than the smaller Cherokees, with automatic transmission as standard at a price of £28,995, it presents a head-on challenge to the enduring Range Rover.

"We see the Grand Cherokee as a luxury car which happens to have four-wheel-drive," says Mackay, pointing to figures that show that the most popular part exchanges against its smaller cousins have been upmarket saloons such as Mercedes, BMW and Volvo. Climb up into the leather seats and look at the dashboard oozing with electrical equipment and it's not difficult to see the logic in that view.

But Mackay also points out that growth in the market is patchy. "It favours the makers with a four-wheel-drive heritage," he says, clearly placing Jeep at the head of that list, but declining to identify others. Land Rover and Mitsubishi with the strong-selling Shogun must be the most obvious entrants.

Dances with Cherokees



When the going gets tough... as Jeep's off-road expert, Barry Stallard's roller coaster includes spectacular descents on loose rocks

The Jeep team was only too anxious to demonstrate how well this luxury car would perform over the rough. If you want to see a Grand Cherokee dance, the man to consult is Barry Stallard, Jeep's off-road expert, whose job consists of devising ever more fiendish things for these vehicles to do. On the fringe of Snowdonia, 1,000ft up, he had marked out a 45-minute off-road course which included a series of spectacular descents on loose

rocks, an underwater roundabout and a flat-out dash up what was probably the steepest slope I have ever climbed in a vehicle.

But the centrepiece of this exercise was something called Stallard's roller coaster, a short rise with bumps, rather like moguls on a ski slope, placed asymmetrically so that every time one wheel rose the other on the same side dropped, frequently twisting at the same time and admirably demonstrating

the virtues of Jeep's Quadra-trac four-wheel-drive system and gas-filled dampers. Watching the car in front climb this slope, the word "dancing" seems appropriate. The climb ends in a pinnacle from which the car virtually stands on its nose as it plunges into a muddy pond and exits just as steeply.

The Grand Cherokee performed all this with great aplomb. But that is the contradiction built into these off-road limousines: I can't really

see many owners shelling out £30,000 and then cheerfully listening to the graunch of rocks hitting the sump guard, loose stones flying against the paintwork and watching glutinous mud cling to the door sills ready to smear their clothes.

If you do this sort of thing in earnest, you are probably not too worried about having the leather seats with eight-way power adjustment and two-position memory or the six-speaker stereo system or the automatic air conditioning.



The dashboard oozes equipment and steep hills are no problem

GRAND CHEROKEE

Body style: 5-door, 5-seat off-roader.
 Engine: six-cylinder, four-litre giving 174bhp at 4600rpm.
 Transmission: 4-speed auto with high and low ratios and permanent Quadra-Trac 4WD.
 Performance: Max speed, 112mph; 0-60mph in 9.9seconds.
 Economy: Urban, 13mpg; Extra urban, 23.5mpg; combined 18.2mpg.
 Equipment: Electrically operated seats (with position memory), windows and mirrors. Air conditioning, cruise control, trip computer, six-speaker stereo. Anti-lock brakes, side impact protection, dual airbags, remote central locking and alarm/immobiliser.
 Price: £28,995.
 Insurance: Group 16.

Controls, incidentally, will flick from centigrade to Fahrenheit at the touch of a button, but if you use centigrade the trip recorder and everything else flicks into kilometres, a feature which I predict will produce some interesting generational conflict if you use this as a family car.

The level of standard equipment is so high that there are only two items on the options list: a sunroof and a CD changer. If you enjoy the high driving position of an off-roader, then on the motorway or on the passes of Snowdonia this is a limousine that will transport you in luxury, at speed and with bags of luggage space. Despite the height, it was relatively unaffected by crosswinds and my only niggle would be the positioning of the pedals, the brake being a long way back relative to the throttle.

But if in a few years' time you are tempted to buy a used Grand Cherokee, make sure it was never on the Press fleet. Remember Stallard's roller-coaster.

Honda Shuttle competition

YOU CAN BE the proud owner of a fabulous new Honda Shuttle, the ultimate people carrier, thanks to an exclusive competition in *The Times*. This is the last token, a bonus, for your chance to enter our free prize draw.

All you have to do is post three different tokens with the official entry form which was published in *Car 96* on January 13 and 20 to: *The Times/Honda Shuttle Prize Draw*, 134-146 Curtain Road, London EC2 3AR.

Closing date for this competition is next Friday, February 2, 1996.



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